WORLD/ A20

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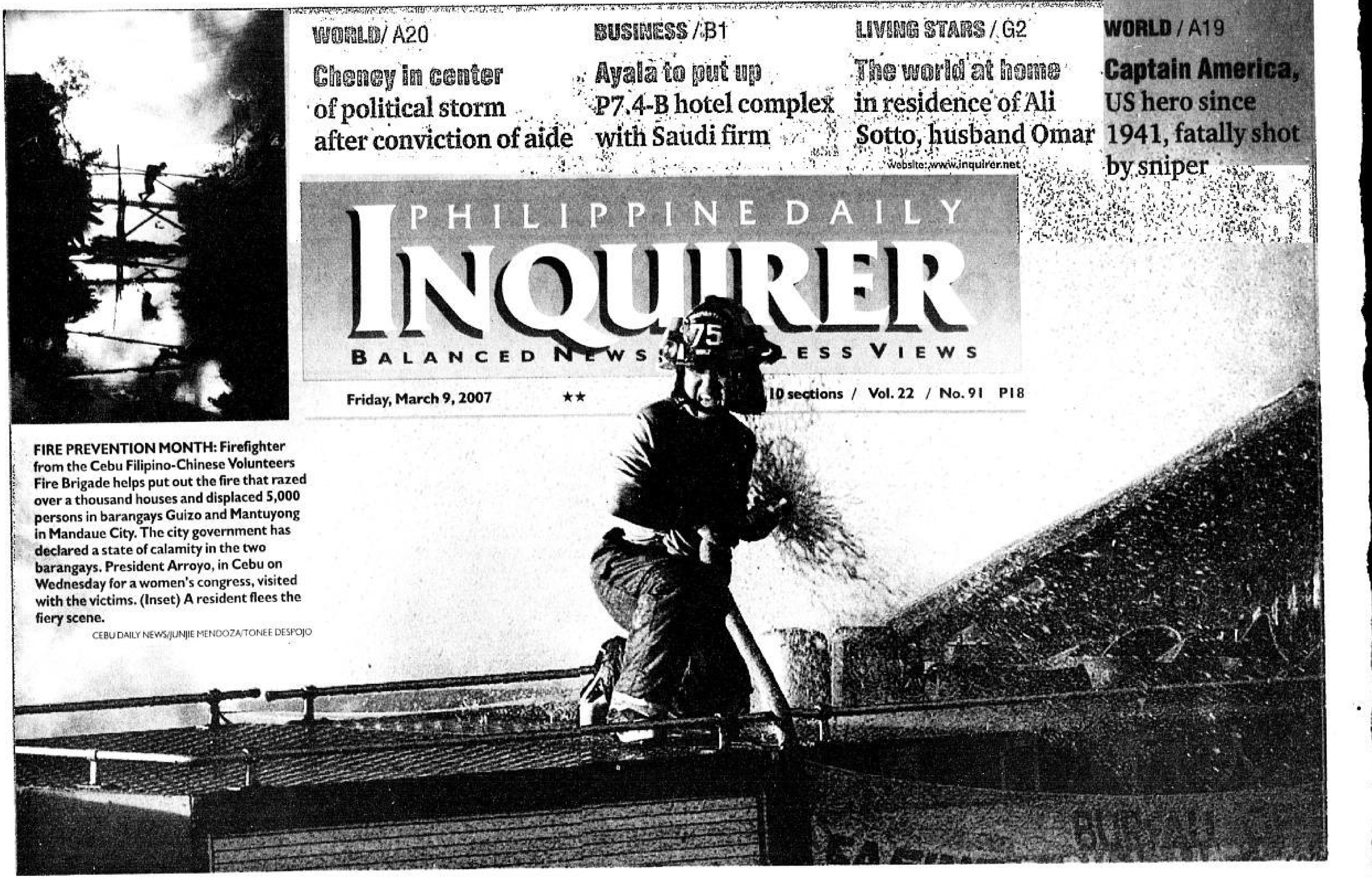
PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, March 9, 2007 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 91 P18



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CEBU DAILY NEWS/JUNJIE MENDOZA/TONEE DESPOJO

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By Leila B. Salaverria

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SOLGEN/ A13

GMA birthday 'gift' to Revilla: Sangley Point

By Nini Valera

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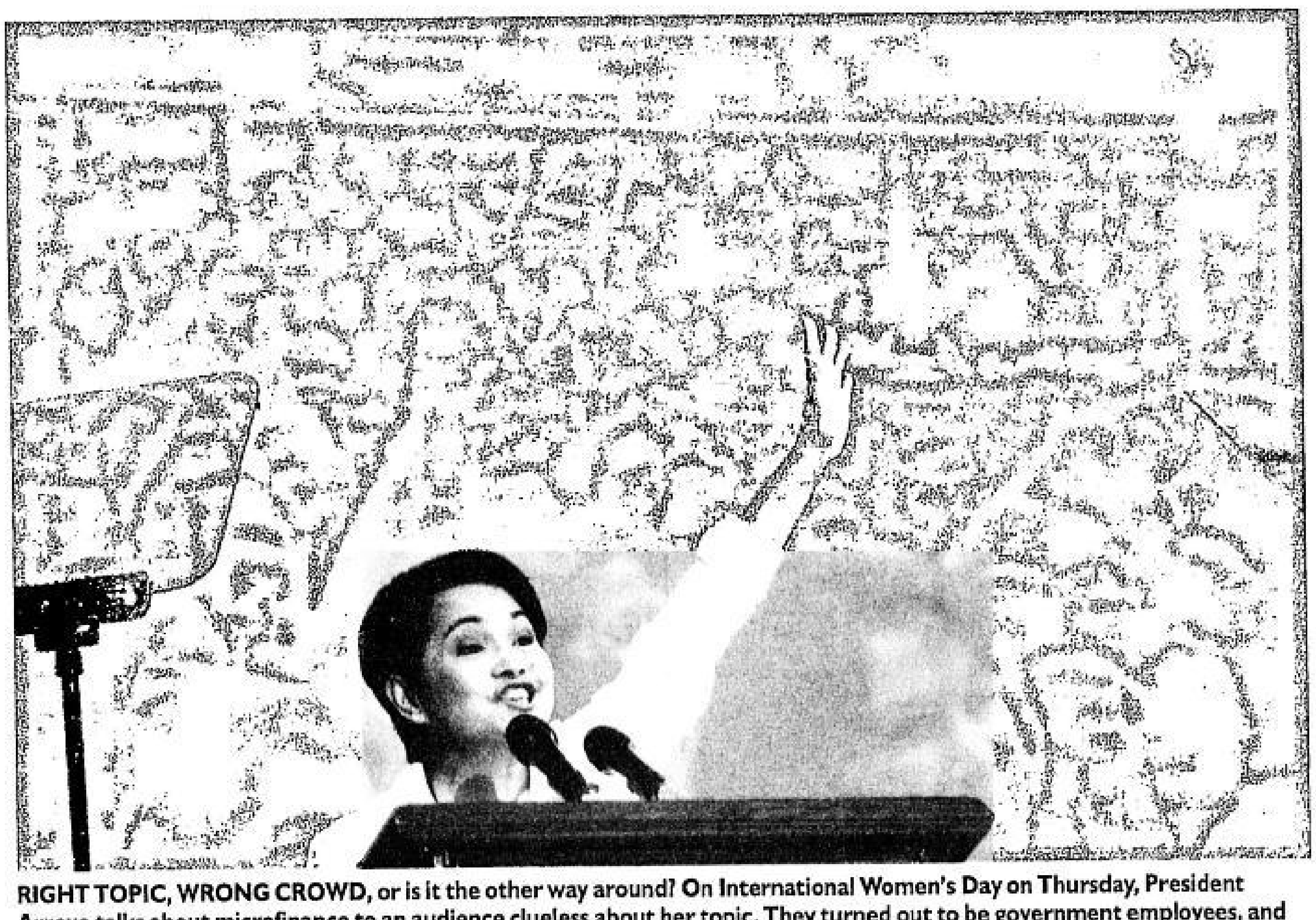
President Macapagal-Arroyo, a special guest of Revilla's during his birthday bash on Wednesday night, told the former senator and action star to prepare the executive order that would make his birthday wish come true.

Revilla made the request in an impromptu but emotional speech at the end of a concert featuring some of his

GMA BIRTHDAY/ A8



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By Juliet Labog-Javellana

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A truck driver from the southern state of Georgia stepped forward to claim half of the jackpot.

"I'm still numb," said Ed Nabors, 52, of

2 SHARE/ A6

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ALCANO/ A8

Hits gov't try to destroy party-lists

By TJ Burgonio, Alcuin Papa and Christian V. Esguerra

FACING ARREST FOR THE alleged killings 22 years ago of communist rebels suspected of spying for the military, Satur Ocampo yesterday lashed out at the government for its "underhanded" tactic to marginalize him and other party-list lawmakers in the run-up to the May 14 elections.

By filing the murder case against him, the government, through the Armed Forces of the Philippines, merely wanted to get him arrested, jailed and barred from campaigning for the party-list elections, Ocampo said.

"This is also part of the over-all plan to destroy the progressive party-list organizations, led by Bayan Muna," said Ocampo at a briefing with his lawyer Romeo Capulong and fellow Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño at an undisclosed location.

Ocampo, spokesperson of the National Democratic Front in the unsuccessful peace talks with the government in 1987, said he would never back down in

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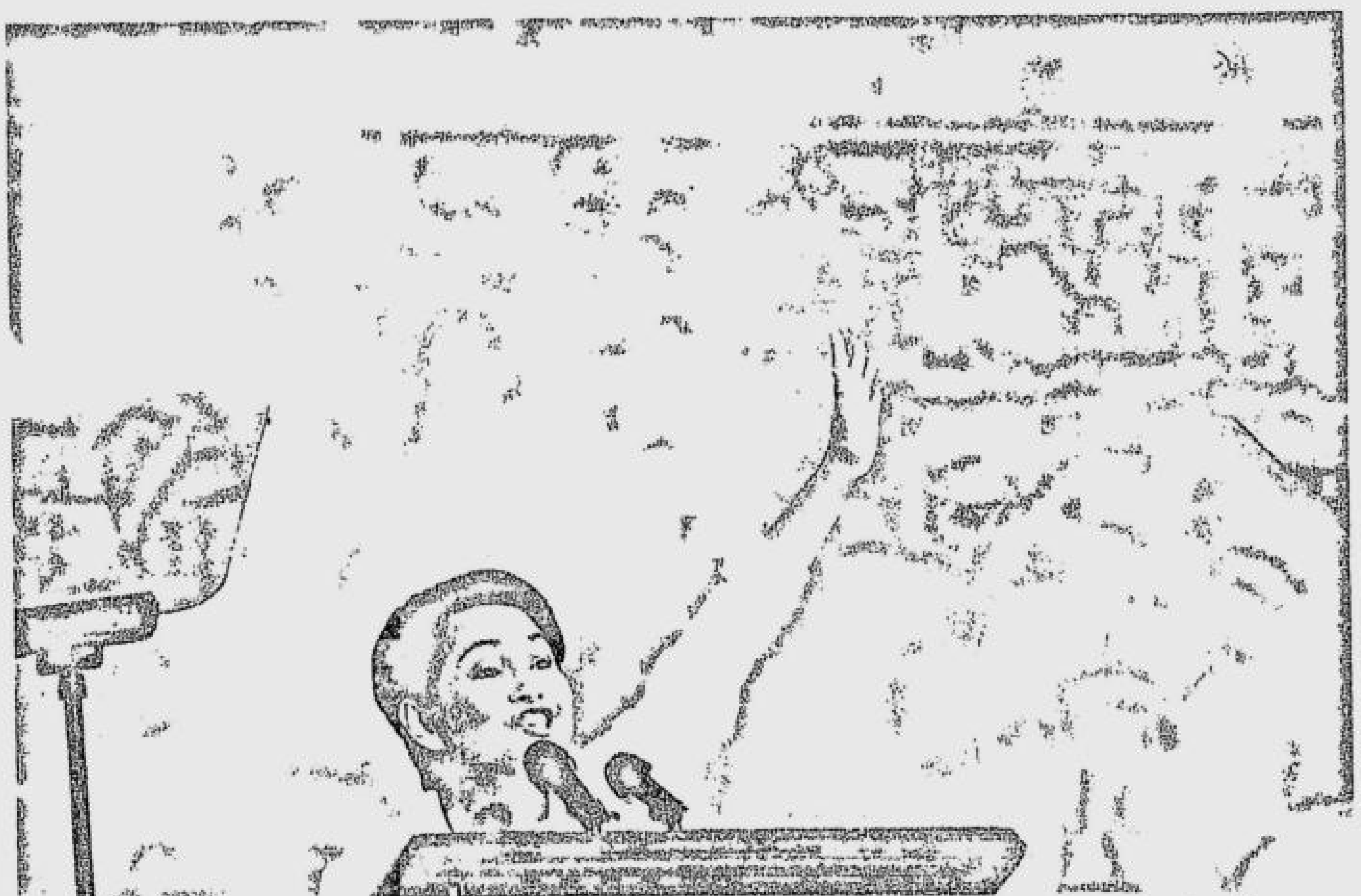

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SUERTRES
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(11) (19) (32) (34) (37) (45)
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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol region and Eastern Visayas will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered light rains. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen.Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: LAW DE GUZMAN, INQUIRER RESEARCH/03/08/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

DAR chief backs down in Negros

LA CASTELLANA, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL—Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman yesterday decided to postpone the installation of 122 agrarian reform beneficiaries allied with the Task Force Mapalad at the Hacienda Velez Malaga here to avoid violence after 2,000 opposing farm workers from rival groups started gathering at the hacienda yesterday.

Pangandaman, who came to Negros Occidental yesterday to assess the situation in the hacienda, said the Philippine National Police had confirmed that members and sympathizers of the parties numbering thousands were massing up and "clearly preparing for a confrontation."

"To my mind the possibility of physical harm or loss of life or limb is present, imminent and inevitable," he said.

"We cannot risk an outbreak of violence that could lead to bloodshed because while we value property, we value more the lives of the people," he added.

About 198 members of the Malaga Cuenca Multi-Purpose Cooperative and the Hacienda Malaga Independent Workers Union, who are all workers of Hacienda Velez Malaga, are opposing the installation of the TFM members on what they claim was the best part of the property.

Joined by sympathizers from neighboring farms, they held a prayer rally at the entrance of Hacienda Velez Malaga yesterday as tensions rose with the anticipated arrival of Pangandaman.

"The TFM members were given the best portion of the land while we who are the original tillers of the farm were given an area away from most of our homes and the main road," he said.

Of the 122 beneficiaries of the 144 hectares placed under land reform, 20 have joined the union and only 57 are original tillers of the land, Tupas claimed.

He said the rest of the beneficiaries were not from Hacienda Malaga-Velez.

The TFM meanwhile claims that only 102 of the 122 granted a collective certificate of land ownership to the property in 2002 belonged to TFM. The rest, it said, were identified with the hacienda management.

About 100 members from TFM chapters all over Negros Occidental also gathered at the La Castellana town plaza to demand that the DAR to go ahead with the installation.

Hacienda owner Roberto Cuenca last Wednesday questioned the installation of the TFM farmer beneficiaries claiming that an injunction against the installation by a local court issued in 2002 was still in effect.

Cuenca also said that the award of the Cuenca properties was a question that was still pending before the Supreme Court.

Pangandaman, however, said that as far as the DAR was concerned, there were no more legal impediments to the implementation of land reform.

In Manila, a group of TFM members picketing the DAR office called on Pangandaman to step down after failing to install the beneficiaries at the hacienda.

"He's not fit to remain in his post; he can't install us. He can't keep his word, shame on him. Even if we're poor farmers, we keep our word," said Eledelyn Paclibar, one of the 22 beneficiaries staging a hunger strike in a tent outside the DAR office.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo should take over and install the farmers," said TFM president Jose Rodito Angeles.

The beneficiaries, who broke their hunger strike yesterday morning as a "gesture of goodwill" said they would continue with the strike today, with other beneficiaries from the province joining them.

"We will not only skip meals, but also water. If he ignores us, we will die here," Paclibar said.

Pangandaman said he was also deferring to a petition for certiorari filed by 102 of the 122 TFM beneficiaries with the Supreme Court against the 2002 lower court injunction.

"We do not want to preempt the Supreme Court from coming up with a fair and just decision," he said.

The farmers started camping outside the DAR office last Feb. 20 to protest Pangandaman's failure to install them for the past two months. *Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas, and TJ Burgonio in Metro Manila*

ELECTION '07

Govs pledge 12-0 win for Unity bets

By Tarra Quismundo, Cynthia D. Balana and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AN ORGANIZATION GROUPing the country's provincial governors yesterday vowed to deliver a 12 to 0 victory for the administration's Team Unity in the May senatorial elections.

Members of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) unanimously adopted a resolution pledging their unequivocal support for Team Unity at a meeting last Wednesday, said Sulu Gov. Benjamin Loong, a member of the LPP national executive board.

The LPP is chaired by Ilocos Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, a candidate of Team Unity.

"We need a Senate that will pursue a legislative agenda fully supportive of President Arroyo's 8 by '08 program," the resolution read.

Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado, who heads both the LPP and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, said the resolution explicitly states that "Congress will play a key role in ensuring the success of this pro-poor, pro-modernization and pro-growth agenda."

"Our position is 12 to 0 because we believe that if the Senate does not support the program of the administration, then nothing will happen to the country... If the Senate is not whole, no development will reach our provinces," said Loong.

He said that a victory for the Team Unity candidates would make possible the crafting of a legislative plan to help fulfill the President's "8 by '08" agenda, a checklist of programs focusing on job creation, a strong peso, lower living costs, propoor education, healthcare and housing, investments, hunger mitigation, a strong antiterror drive and a green Philippines.

Loong said the administration team can count on the league's support that they would not need to spend anything for their provincial campaign.

"They don't have to spend anymore. They don't need to pay the airfare, they don't need to go to the provinces because we will be the ones to explain their platform to the people," Loong said.

Erap magic tested in Davao GO rally

By Norman Bordadora

DAVAO CITY—IF THERE EVER were any doubts the vaunted Erap "magic" was waning, these were put to rest after most of the Genuine Opposition's senatorial candidates scrambled to get to this city to campaign at ousted President Joseph Estrada's "request."

"Mindanao is really so close to the heart of President Erap that he called the candidates and asked them to go to Davao," said Estrada son and GO campaign manager, San Juan Mayor Joseph Victor Ejercito.

Except for Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV, who is detained on rebellion charges, and reelectionist Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who said he was ill, all the members of the GO ticket confirmed their attendance at the opposition's kick-off rally in the southern Philippines held last night at Rizal Plaza in this city.

Trillanes, however, will have a stand-in at the rally which will mark the first time practically all the GO candidates will be together since their Plaza Miranda proclamation rally on Feb. 24.

Senate President Manuel Villar confirmed Estrada had called to ask him to come to Davao.

"He called and asked that I be here. It's also been some time since I was here so it's a good opportunity to campaign in Mindanao," Villar told reporters.

The slate has been plagued by doubts of its candidates' ability to campaign as a team after some bets missed sorties to go out on their own.

It has also been hounded by financial woes from the start.

"They say we're disorganized and yet the surveys still show that we'll win," Ejercito said.

Drug firms score in Milk Code case

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE TEMPORARY AND INDEFInite ban against the implementation of the revised rules of the Milk Code, which would regulate the marketing of infant formula, stays after the Supreme Court has denied an urgent motion to have it lifted.

In a Feb. 27 resolution, the high tribunal denied for lack of merit the motion filed by the Office of the Solicitor General on behalf of the Department of Health to lift the temporary restraining order.

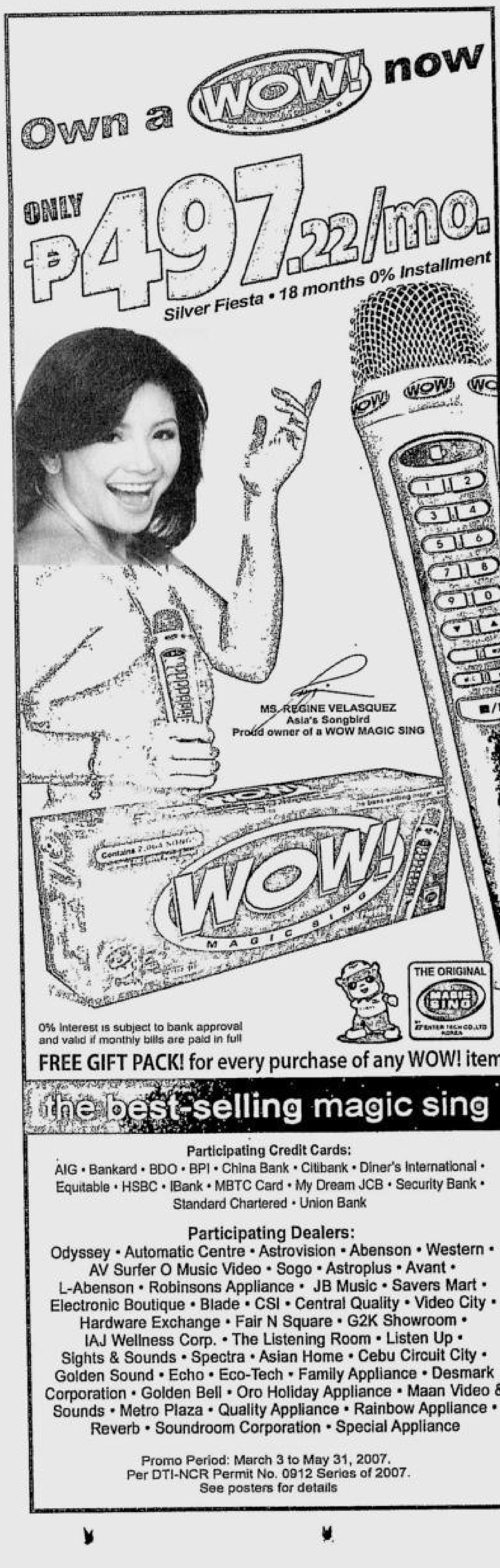
The TRO, handed down in August 2006, will be in force until the court issues further orders.

The high court also deferred action on the OSG's motion to set the case for oral arguments, saying it would wait for a reply from the Pharmaceutical and Health Care Association of the Philippines (PHAP).

The PHAP, a group of companies that manufacture or distribute health and nutritional products, went to the high court to stop the implementation of the revised implementing rules and regulations (RIRR) of the Milk Code, saying the DOH did not have the power to change the rules.

The PHAP protested the new rule that bans the advertising, promotion or sponsorship, or marketing materials and activities for breast milk substitutes intended for infants and children up to two years old, which it said went beyond the Milk Code's provisions.

It also said the RIRR prohibited the free flow of information about the nutritional content of infant formula and prevented the spread of knowledge on proper infant feeding.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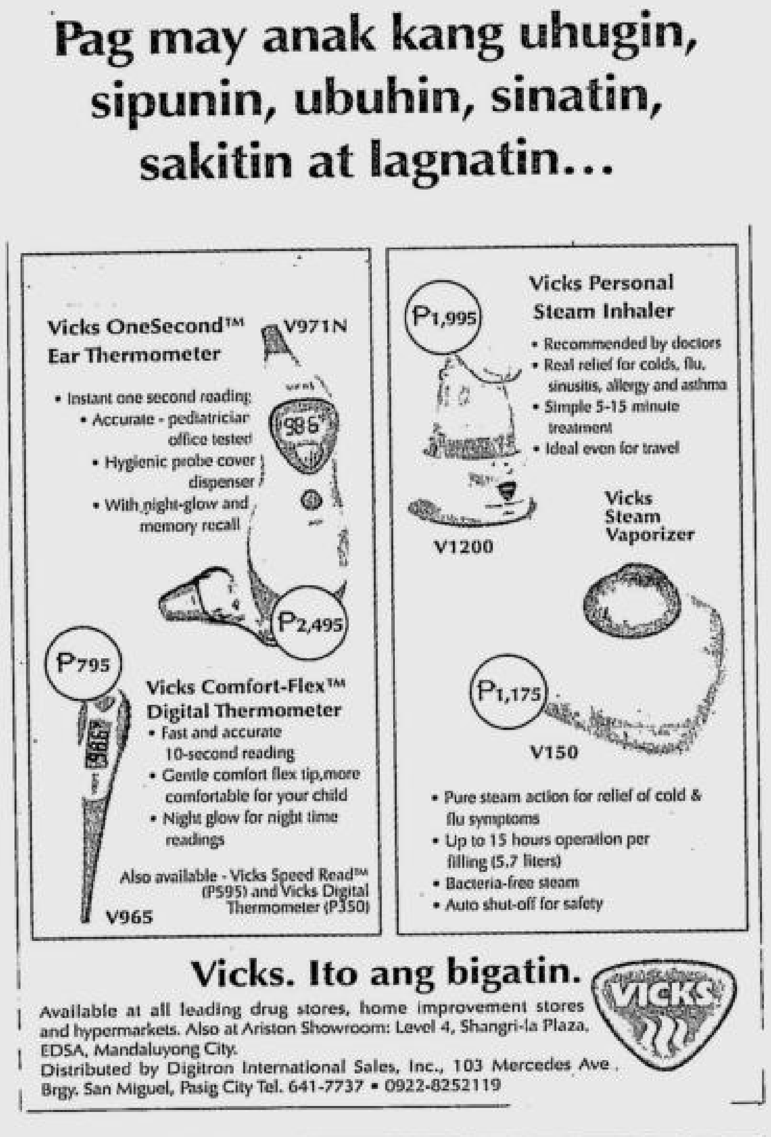
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Moro rebs fire mortars on Army camp

MUSLIM GUERRILLAS YESTERDAY FIRED mortar rounds on an Army camp in Midsayap, North Cotabato—where they had clashed with troops earlier—causing no injuries but raising concerns over the future of peace talks, security officials said.

Moro Islamic Liberation Front guerrillas fired four 81-mm mortar rounds toward the 40th Infantry Battalion headquarters before dawn, but missed their target, damaging houses in nearby Barangay Salunayan instead, the officials said.

The blasts roused local residents from their sleep but there was no immediate sign they were about to flee, Midysayap police chief Supt. Chino Mamburam said.

Army regional spokesperson Lt. Col. Julieto Ando said the guerrillas apparently were out to avenge the deaths of 17 rebels who were killed Monday in fierce fighting in Midsayap, triggered by rebel allegations that troops were encroaching on their strongholds.

Three soldiers were killed during the overnight fighting.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said the guerrillas launched the mortar attack after soldiers continued to move on rebel positions despite efforts by a government-MILF ceasefire committee to contain days of sporadic fighting.

"We're being pushed against the wall," Kabalu told The Associated Press by telephone. "We have no recourse but to fight back."

The fighting will not end unless the troops withdraw far from the rebel positions, he said.

He said some local officials were backing the Army incursions because they wanted the guerrillas driven away from the predominantly Christian town.

"These people want to derail the peace process," Kabalu said.

Army officials, however, said the troops withdrew from several Midsayap barangays Wednesday to avoid escalating the violence with the MILF

Midsayap Mayor Romeo Arana said the soldiers had left three barangays at the center of the conflict, and that he was overseeing the return of about 4,500 residents who had fled the fighting.

AP, Reuters

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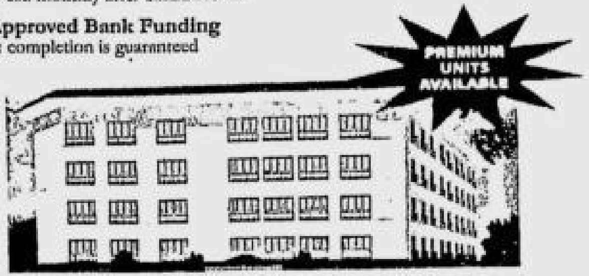

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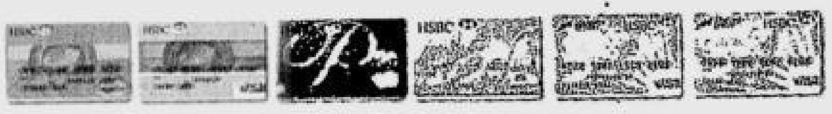

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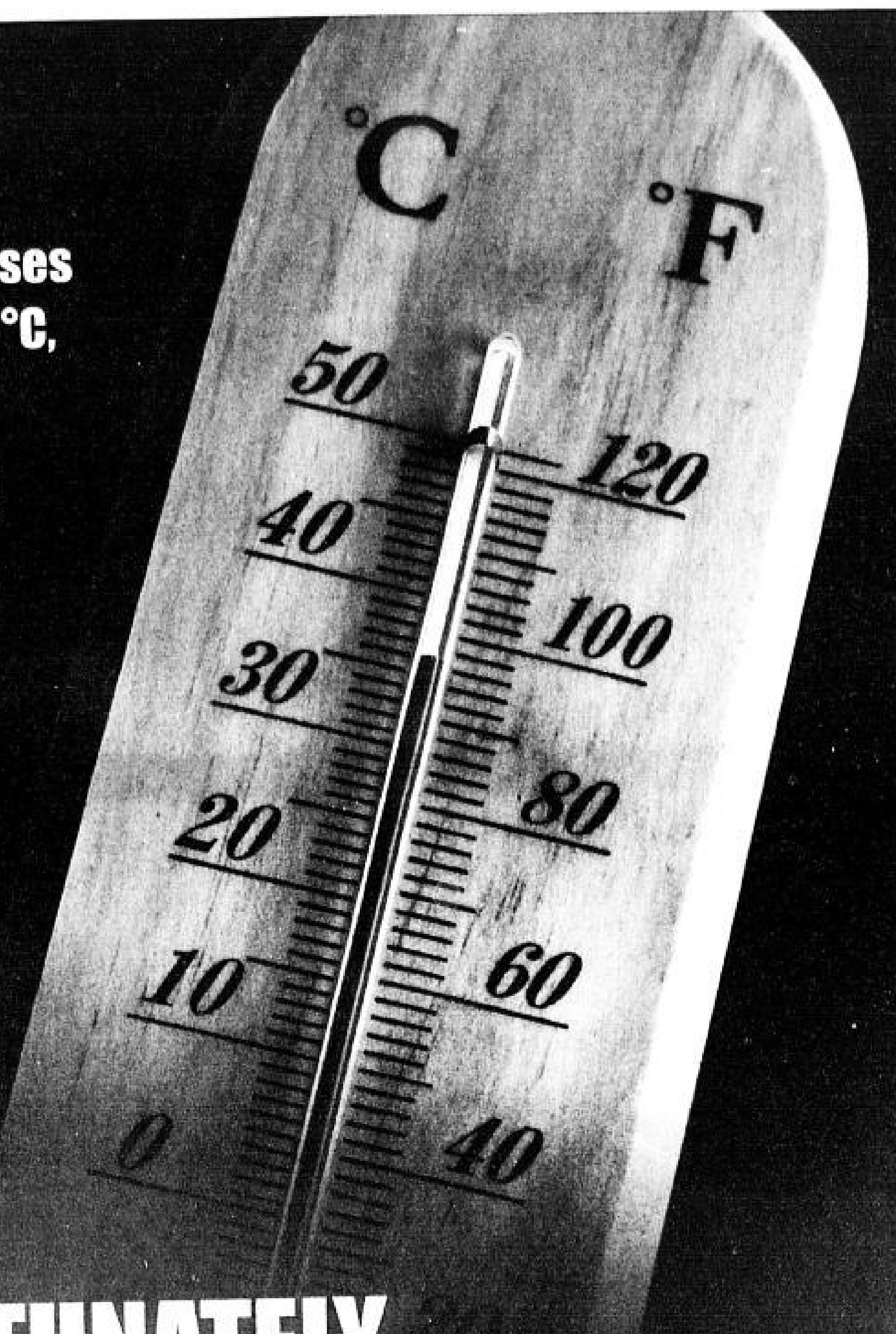

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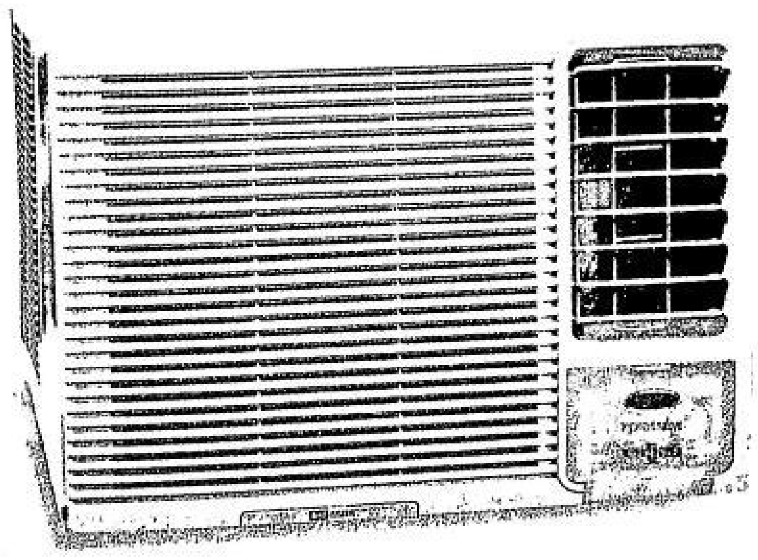

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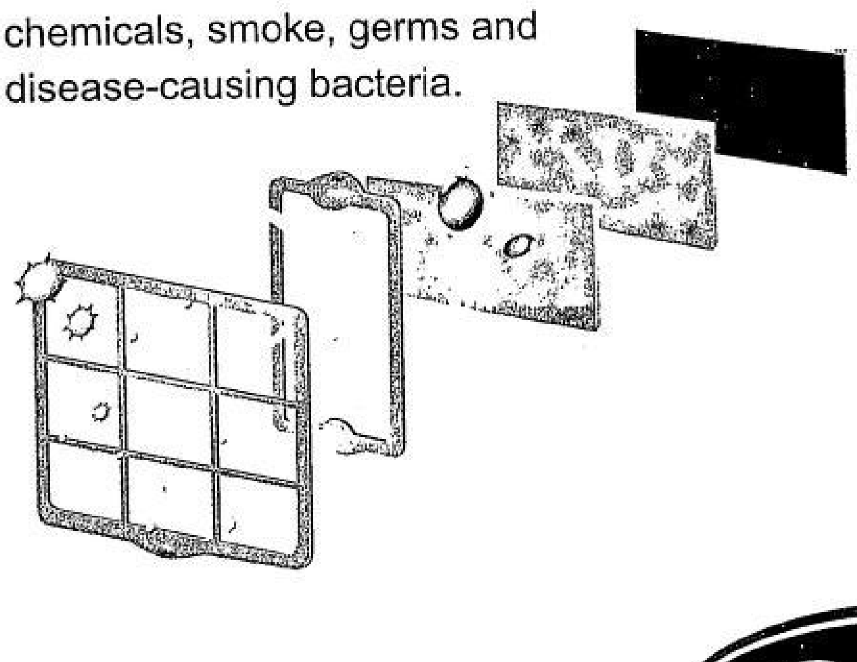

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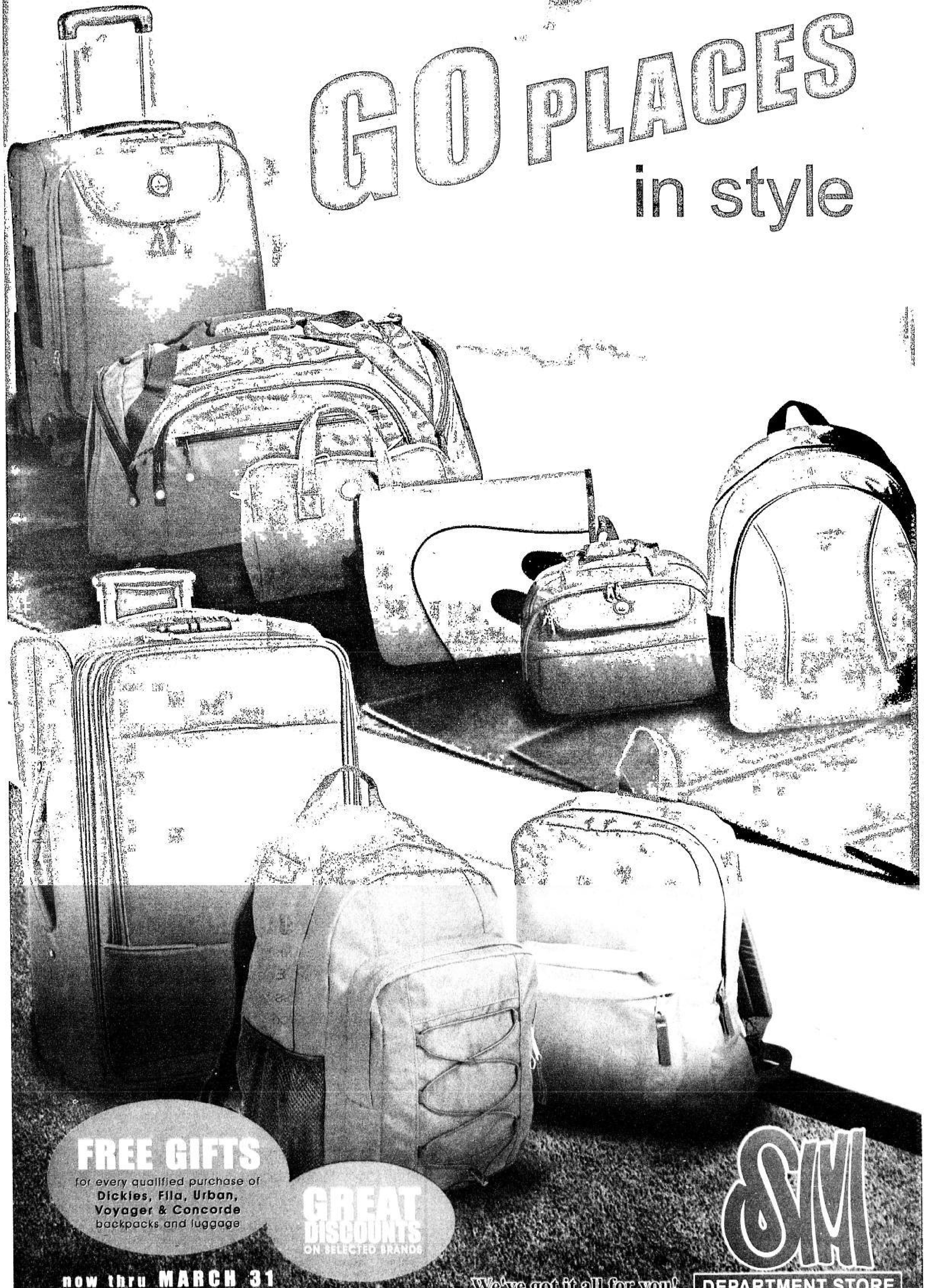

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0634, Series of 2007.

Satur now fugitive, hits gov't try to destroy party-lists

From page A1

the case, which he said was based on trumped-up charges.

A court in Hilongos, Leyte, on Monday issued arrest warrants against Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Ma. Sison, NDF spokesperson Luis Jalandoni, Ocampo and 50 other suspected communist leaders for multiple murder arising from the discovery of a mass grave of former rebels in Inopacan town in August last year.

The charge is non-bailable.

Military investigators claimed that the 67 skeletal remains dug up in Sapang Daku, Barangay Caulisihan in Inopacan, were victims of a CPP "purge" in the 1980s. Only 15 remains were identified by their relatives.

The case was brought to the attention of the court by relatives of the 15 people who were said to have been executed during the "purge."

A fugitive to PNP

Ocampo balked at the idea of going underground, saying he would take legal steps to dismiss the case and quash the warrant against him, advising policemen not to waste their time on him.

"They're running roughshod over our rights. That's how vindictive they are against their political opponents," the lawmaker, clad in a light yellow T-shirt, said.

But as far as the Philippine National Police (PNP) is concerned, Ocampo is a fugitive.

The PNP spokesperson, Chief Supt. Samuel Pagdilao, said yesterday the police tried but were unable to serve the warrant of arrest on Ocampo.

"He is acting like a fugitive, that's just the same," Pagdilao told reporters when informed that Ocampo had held a press conference at an undisclosed place.

Pagdilao said the PNP would keep trying to serve the warrant on Ocampo.

"This warrant of arrest is a lawful order from the court that the PNP is mandated to serve as a part of our normal law enforcement function," Pagdilao said. "It has nothing to do with the elections."

If arrested, Ocampo would most likely be jailed in Camp Crame unless the court stipulates another detention center, according to Pagdilao.

Surrender

He urged Ocampo to surrender.

Ocampo is giving himself "a few more days" before turning himself in.

"I will surface eventually and voluntarily," he said in a statement.

Capulong said the lawmaker would spend the next few days helping prepare their next legal move to counter the charge.

"If he will surrender right away, we don't know what these people will do to him. So he decided to give himself a few more days," Capulong told the INQUIRER, noting the spate of extrajudicial killings under the Arroyo administration.

Along with the political repression of Bayan Muna, the government is trying to extinguish the principle of the party-list system, Ocampo said.

"They're violating the principle in the Constitution that gives voice to the small people. They want to control the winners in the party-list, and set us aside."

Bayan Muna is one of the leading militant party-list organizations that have been accused by the military of operating as legal fronts of the CPP and its armed wing, the New People's Army.

At least 114 Bayan Muna members have been killed since President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed office in 2001. The military claims that the killings were a result of the purges in the CPP.

Play fair

Ocampo is facing other charges, including rebellion and three separate murder charges.

"I'm ready to face all their ammunition. But my appeal to the government, to President Macapagal-Arroyo, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, the inter-agency legal action group, headed by National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, just play fair, and I'll stand my ground," Ocampo said.

"Don't use underhanded tactics, legal shortcuts. Don't use the entire machinery of the government to terrorize our members," he said.

Loophole

Ocampo pointed out that the case against him suffered from a loophole: The alleged crime was committed at a time when he was detained.

He had been placed under military custody for rebellion from January 1976 until he escaped in May 1985. He was captured again in 1989 on kidnapping charges, and was released in 1992. "They should have checked the records," he said.

Pagdilao said that there were witnesses besides the forensic evidence. He said four former members of the CPP-NPA in Leyte had first-hand knowledge of the murders.

The four had told investigators and the court that the murders were carried out on orders of members of the CPP Central Committee then headed by Sison and Ocampo.

One of the witnesses, Zacarias Piedad, who participated in the abduction of the victims, said Ocampo personally came to Southern Leyte sometime in 1985 to meet with members of the CPP Regional Committee on the implementation of the purge.

Piedad maintained that he witnessed Ocampo giving orders to Exusperado Lloren in 1985 to sentence and execute Juanita Aviola.

Ocampo and several of the co-accused had submitted counter-affidavits denying their involvement in the killings.

Sison, arrested in 1977, left the country months after being freed in 1986 and currently lives in exile in the Netherlands. The military claims he has reassumed his post as party chair, which he denies. Jalandoni is also in exile in the Netherlands.

Grounds for dismissal

Capulong said he would file a petition for certiorari, prohibition and mandamus with the Supreme Court against Leyte Judge Ephraim Abando, who issued the arrest warrants, and prosecutor Rosulo Vivero, who filed the case, as well as charges for grave abuse of discretion against the pair.

"They did not respect his right to due process; they did not uphold the rule of law guaranteed by our Constitution," Capulong said.

He cited several grounds on which the case against Ocampo could be dismissed.

He said for instance that the complaint, lodged in November 2006, violated the 20-year prescription period for the filing of a case because the crime supposedly took place in 1984 or 1985, and that the testimony of the confessed killers could not be used against a co-respondent like Ocampo.

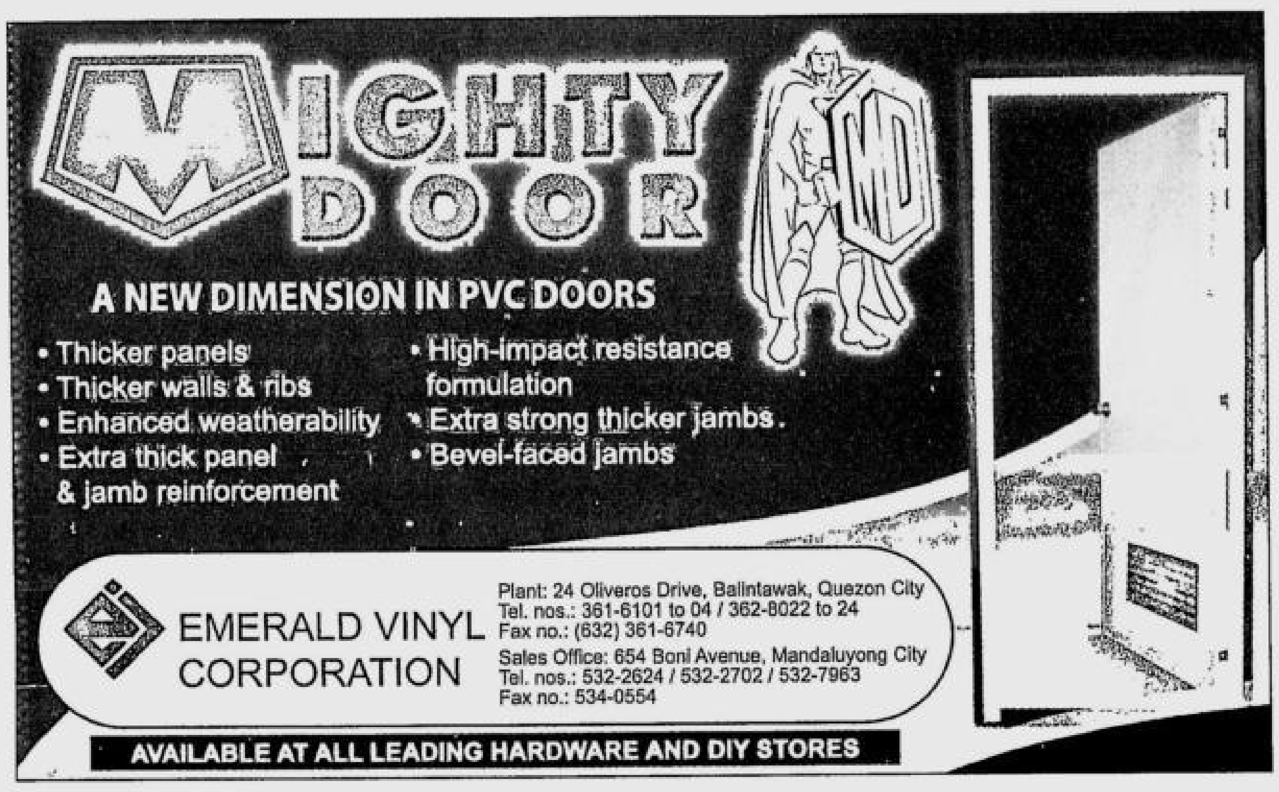
Under People of the Philippines v Hernandez, the case of Ocampo and the others is "deemed absolved" because all common crimes committed in pursuit of rebellion are "deemed absolved," Capulong said.

Skeletal evidence

He also said that the complainants failed to show probable cause and evidence indicating the conspiracy of Ocampo and the other accused, and failed to prove "corpus delicti," or the body of the crime.

"None was identified by means of forensic evidence. After 20 years, for purposes of establishing probable cause, you can't identify the skeletal remains by physical examination alone. The relatives identified some of them by their clothes," he said.

"If this were done by a judge, an independent, impartial judge, there should be no warrant of arrest," he said.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Loren OK at No. 2 but cites . . .

From page A1

percent, the No. 1 candidate may actually be No. 2 and the No. 2 candidate may actually be No. 1 as far as the voters' preference is concerned."

In the survey conducted on Feb. 24-27, Pangilinan scored 56 percent and Legarda, 54 percent.

Seven of GO's 11 official candidates, three from the administration's Team Unity ticket, and another independent candidate made it to the Magic 12.

Pangilinan, who is seeking reelection, is confident that his "independent stance" had "something to do" with his No. 1 ranking.

"I'm an alternative. I think there's an undercurrent of protest. That's the message that came across," he told INQUIRER editors and reporters over dinner Wednesday night.

Pangilinan, who was dropped by GO as a "guest candidate" for his refusal to take part in its campaign sorties, said his being perceived as an underdog might have led to an outpouring of support from the "silent majority."

"That could be because I'm being hit left and right. There may be some sympathy there because they perceive me as someone with principles, someone who stands by his decisions," he said.

He recalled that during a campaign sortie in Bulacan, somebody said he was "the voice of the silent majority."

"I simply said, 'I'm the majority floor leader. Now I'm the silent majority. That's great,'" he added with a laugh.

US pollster

Legarda is heartened by the results of a confidential survey—supposedly conducted by a US pollster commissioned by Malacañang—showing her leading by 13 percentage points over Manuel Villar and Pangilinan.

Pangilinan was No. 3 in the SWS survey.

The confidential survey was conducted on Feb. 24-27 among 1,500 respondents (300 each from Metro Manila, North-Central Luzon, South Luzon-Bicol, the Visayas and Mindanao) and had an error margin of 2.6 percent.

It showed Legarda leading with 62 percent followed by Villar's 49 percent and Pangilinan's 46 percent. Panfilo Lacson (45 percent) and Ralph Recto (41 percent)—both reelectionists—took the fourth and fifth slots.

The survey results—which also showed a 9-3 win for the opposition candidates—were made available to reporters during the GO sorties in Mindanao.

"I am satisfied by the two senatorial surveys which just came out, including the one reportedly commissioned by Malacañang which showed me keeping the No. 1 position in the senatorial race," Legarda said yesterday in a text message to the INQUIRER.

"I'd like to point out that my 13-percentage-point lead in this survey jibed with past results of similar polls conducted by Pulse Asia, SWS and Ibon Foundation," she said.

'Quirky'

According to Legarda, the fact that the survey was done by a US firm with 1,500 respondents nationwide—200 more than SWS' usual 1,200—"added authority" to the results.

As for the SWS survey, she said the results had been described as "quirky."

"But I have no problem being in the No. 1 or No. 2 positions," she said.

Legarda said the margin between the No. 1 and No. 2 slots in the SWS survey was so small, "smaller even than the margin of error," that certain quarters had viewed the results as rather unusual.

"The quirky result, as described by some, may be attributed to the normal ebb and flow of campaigns," Legarda said.

"At the end of the day, the important thing is that based on these surveys, it can be seen that our people will give their selection of their leaders in May 2007 the deep thought and reflection that the exercise deserves," she said.

Pangilinan said people were "tired of accusations and criticisms." *With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Michael Lim Ubac*

2 share $390-M US lotto jackpot

From page A1

Rocky Face, Georgia, about 145 km north of Atlanta, at a news conference Wednesday.

"Mostly I just sat there, just numb, you know, in a fog, had two other co-workers to confirm, look at the paper and look at my ticket," he said in describing his feelings when he realized he had won.

Nabors said he wanted to buy a house for his daughter, who had wanted to move out of her mobile home for a long time and also buy a boat for himself and another for his son.

"I'm gonna do a lot of fishing, a lot of it," Nabors said.

He added he planned to keep working—"at least two more days."

The other winning ticket in Tuesday night's Mega Millions drawing was sold at a liquor store in New Jersey. The holder did not immediately come forward.

The winning numbers: 16-22-29-39-42, with the Mega Ball 20.

Going fishing

Nabors bought his ticket when he stopped in for his weekly cup of coffee at a convenience store in Dalton—the self-proclaimed "Carpet Capital of the World"—near a carpet mill run by his employer, Mohawk Industries.

He said he did not learn he had won until Wednesday morning, about 10 hours after the numbers were announced, when his co-workers told them that someone bought the winning ticket in Dalton.

He elected to take his winnings in a lump sum instead of annual installments, and will get $116.5 million (P5.65 billion) before taxes, or more than $80 million (P3.88 billion) after.

Talk to lawyers

Ohio Lottery Commission spokesperson Mardele Cohen said one of the first stops for anyone holding the winning tickets should be to talk to lawyers and advisors about how to manage their new-found wealth.

"I think the best thing a winner can do is start talking with some tax experts, some estate planners and get a handle on what they want to do with their money," she told CNN television.

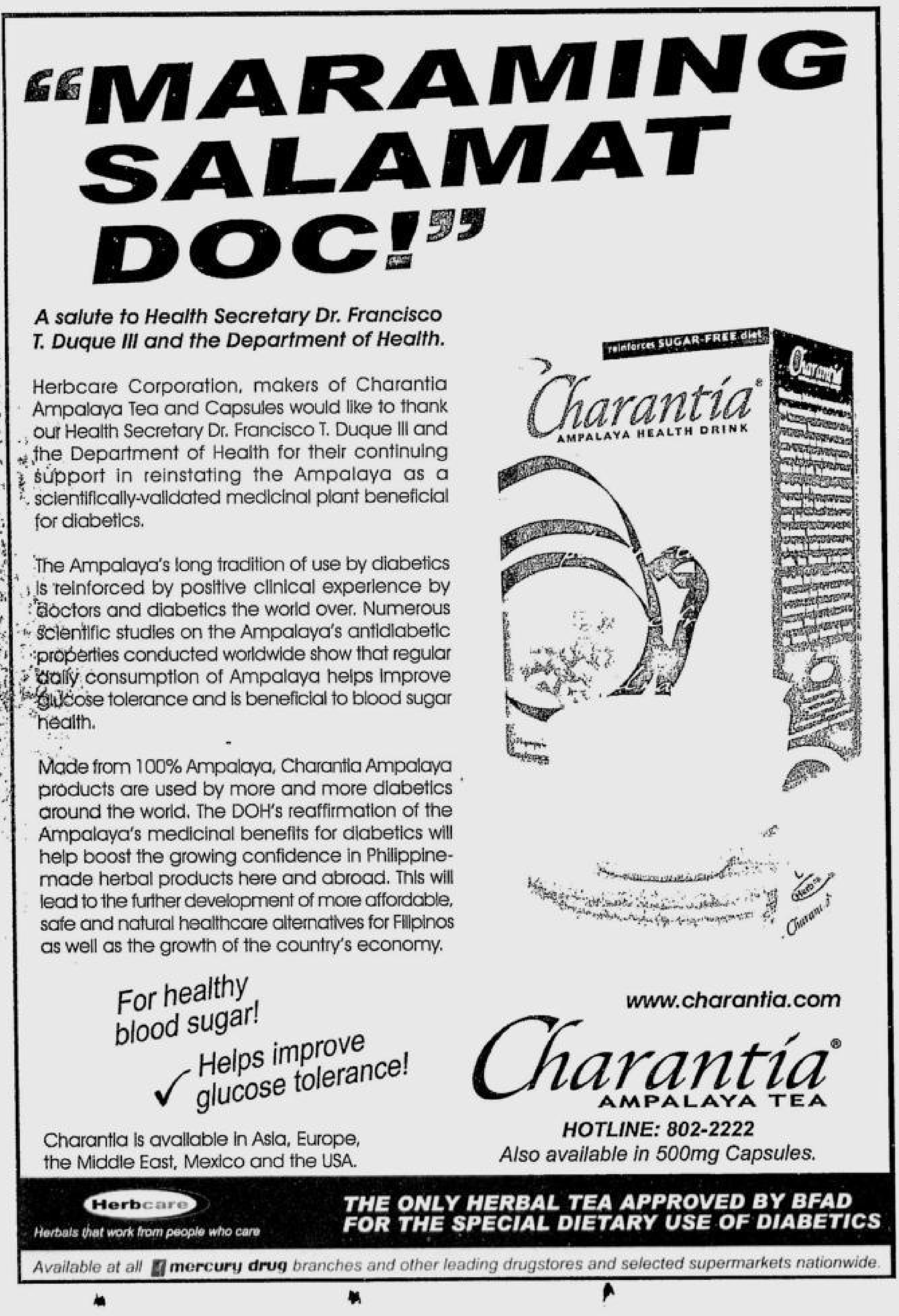
"Hopefully the person would go look in the mirror and see that great big smile on their face and then what would be a great thing for them to do ... is just take a moment and think about what's just happened to them," she said.

The Mega Millions top prize had rolled over 15 times without a winner, with the previous draw last Friday offering a relatively modest $267 million.

1-in-176-M chance

But snowballing sales of tickets pushed up the jackpot and sparked further interest in the draw, with the one-in-176-million chance of picking the winning six numbers apparently not putting people off.

Reports said that one million tickets were sold in a single hour Tuesday in New York—one of the 12 states where the Mega Millions is drawn. *AFP, AP*


"MARAMING SALAMAT DOC!"

A salute to Health Secretary Dr. Francisco T. Duque III and the Department of Health.

Herbcare Corporation, makers of Charantia Ampalaya Tea and Capsules would like to thank our Health Secretary Dr. Francisco T. Duque III and the Department of Health for their continuing support in reinstating the Ampalaya as a scientifically-validated medicinal plant beneficial for diabetics.

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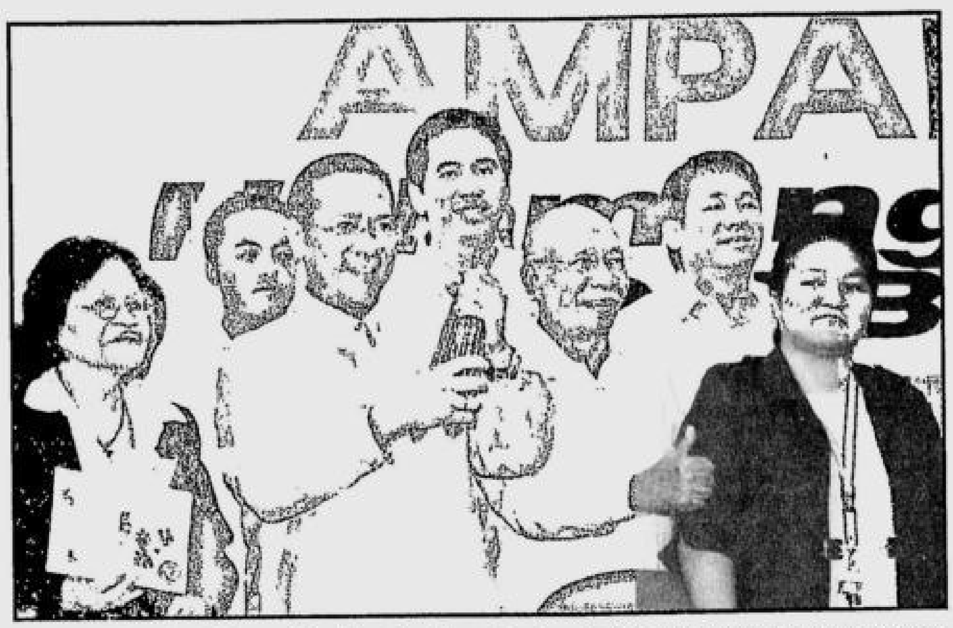

Secretary Francisco T. Duque III celebrating the reinstatement of the Ampalaya with members of the Ampalaya Council and CHIPI. (l-r) Carlita Doran of CRD Herbal, Jericho Bayona of Pascual Laboratories, Benson Sian of Nattural Quality Corporation, CHIPI President Lito Abelarde of Herbcare Corporation,Wilson Tong of Allied Express International and Grace Gupana of ABS Gen International.

Ampalaya (Momordica charantia L.) is safe and effective for type-2 diabetes.

This the Department of Health (DOH) said after officially reinstating the plant among its "Sampung Halamang Gamot," the list of indigenous herbal medicinal plants recognized and promoted by the health department to have sufficient scientific evidence for respective illnesses. Among the plants in the DOH list, Ampalaya is the only one suitable for diabetics for its blood sugar-lowering effect.

Health Secretary Francisco T. Duque III said that the DOH move is based on the scientific reports conducted on Ampalaya for over four decades now. A review of these studies by Dr. William Torres (former Bureau of Food and Drugs Director) released last January 2004 concludes that "*Momordica charantia L.* fruits, leaves, seeds and other parts, when used as dry powders, extracts, decoctions, fresh or cooled, have clearly demonstrated hypoglycemic activity." Researchers have identified the key compounds present in Ampalaya, notably polypeptide-P, a plant insulin found only in the Ampalaya. Similar to animal insulin, polypeptide-P lowers elevated blood sugar levels.

Similarly, the DOH cited a study completed by the National Integrated Research Program for Medicinal Plants (NIRPROMP), which shows an Ampalaya tablet is effective in the treatment of diabetes. NIRPROMP is an inter-government agency that seeks to systemize the use of local herbal medicinal plants in the country. The Ampalaya tablet is expected to earn soon the Bureau of Food and Drugs classification of 'herbal medicine'.

Welcome move

Many diabetics and doctors welcome the DOH recommendation, saying that it solidifies the role of Ampalaya in managing diabetes. Helen Maño, president of a diabetic club in Las Pinas City, said it only highlights what many of their members have long experienced with Ampalaya. Maño said that even their club doctor endorses Ampalaya to diabetics. Similarly, the Association of Municipal Health Officers of the Philippines (AMHOP), the doctors running the country's public health centers, recommends the addition of Ampalaya to the regimen of their diabetic patients. Dr. Guia Abad, AMHOP past president, said their doctor-members have observed firsthand how their diabetic patients achieve better blood sugar health when Ampalaya tea is added to the usual regimen of low-fat, high-fiber diet, regular exercise and prescribed medicine. "We're happy that the government is pushing Ampalaya's use for diabetes because this will give majority of our patients who are poor better access to healthcare," she said.

Meantime, the Chamber of Herbal Industries of the Philippines, Inc. (CHIPI) commends the validation of Ampalaya in light of a global trend towards natural and herbal therapies. CHIPI said that the Philippines has one of the world's richest herbal medicinal resources, and Ampalaya can be the 'star' herb for the Philippines much like ginseng is to Korea. CHIPI hoped that Ampalaya's global acceptance will spur further research and investment in other herbal resources, and ultimately help our economy and open livelihood for many Filipinos. The Ampalaya Council, a CHIPI affiliate organization composed of companies producing Ampalaya products that are approved by the Bureau of Food and Drugs, also noted that a global demand for Ampalaya products will definitely translate to more income for our Ampalaya farmers. Both the Council and CHIPI commend the DOH move as pro-Filipino. Similarly, Dr. Jose Antonio Socrates, Chairman of the Palawan Center for Appropriate Rural Technology, assured the manufacturers that the Philippines has the capacity to meet a high demand for Ampalaya. PCART is a non-governmental organization of farmers and suppliers of quality herbal raw materials.

Worldwide, Ampalaya is the most scientifically studied plant for diabetes. As diabetes spread unabatedly across the globe and with more people looking for a safe and natural way to stay healthy, the DOH validation of Ampalaya sets the plant further into the path of global prominence with the Philippines expected to reap the fruits.

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Januray 29, 2007

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR
NO. 2007 0058

TO: ALL CONCERNED

SUBJECT: **Recall of Department Circular 196-A s. 2003 Re: Reinstating Ampalaya (*Momordica charantia*, L.) as Scientifically-Validated Herbal Medicinal Plant**

In view of the recent developments in the field of research regarding the medicinal effects of Ampalaya (*Momordica charantia*, L.), Department Circular 196-A s., 2003 is hereby recalled thus reinstating Ampalaya as a Scientifically-validated herbal medicinal plant upholding Department Circular 168-A s., 1995. This reclassification is instituted in the light of recent evidence on the clinical efficacy of Ampalaya against Diabetes Mellitus.

For guidance and immediate compliance.

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, M.D., MSc.
Secretary of Health

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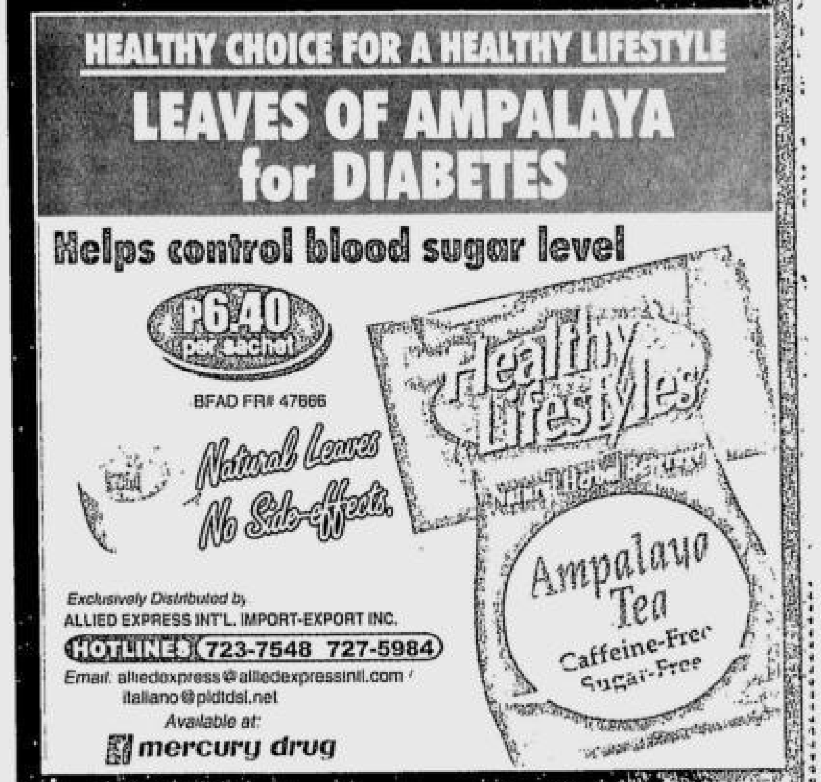

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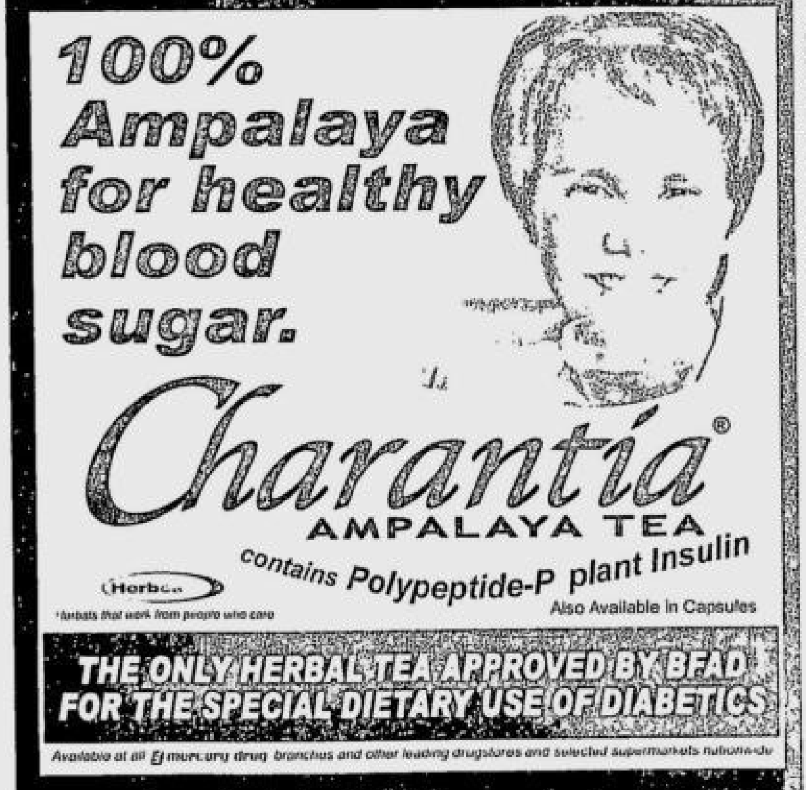

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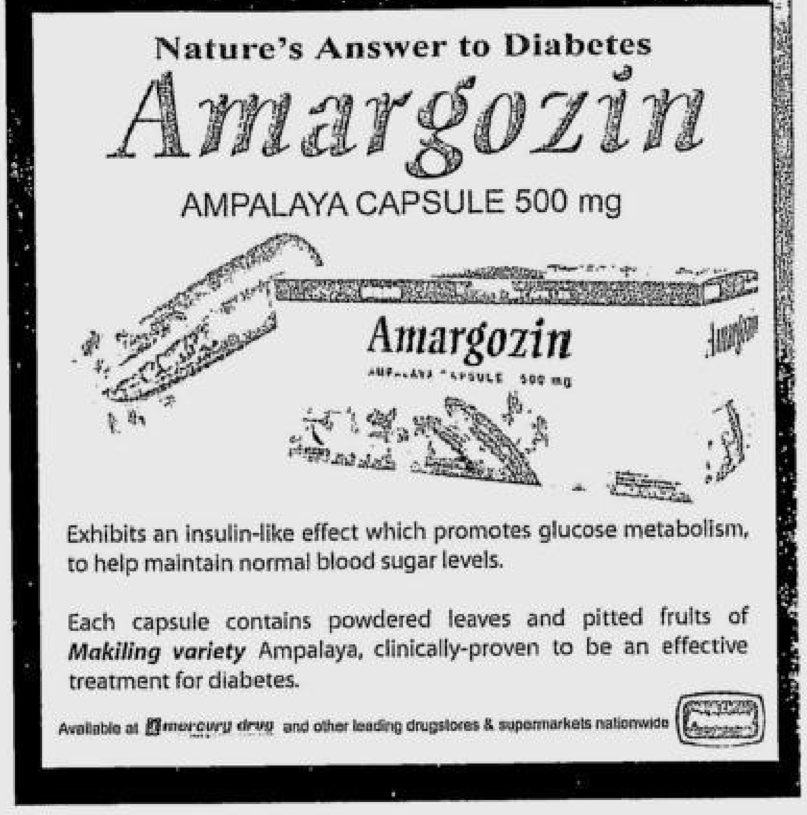

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GMA's 80th birthday 'gift' to Revilla: Sangley Point

THE FAMILY of Ramon Revilla, at least some of them, with the patriarch at the end of the birthday program. There's no stage probably big enough to hold the entire family as Revilla himself had admitted that he had fathered dozens of children.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

SPECIAL guest President Arroyo with host Ramon Revilla and Robert Jaworski applaud a number during the birthday celebration at the Esplanade at the Mall of Asia.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

From page A1

children and grandchildren, and some of the country's top entertainment personalities.

Unlike Subic Naval Base, Clark Air Base, Fort Bonifacio and Villamor Air Base, Sangley Point is not under the jurisdiction of the Bases Conversion Development Authority, which was created by law to convert military bases into special economic zones.

In the next Congress, Revilla's son, senator and actor Bong Revilla, will be filing a bill seeking the conversion of Sangley Point into a special economic zone and work on having the bill certified as urgent by the President, according to the older Revilla.

The Revillas have been pushing for the conversion of Sangley Point into a container port since Bong was governor of Cavite from 1998 to 2001.

Addressing the President in his speech, the older Revilla said, "I hope to see you again next year when I turn 81."

He said that he had moved his birthday party a day earlier so that the President, who had a full schedule on March 8, could come.

Speaking mostly in Filipino, Revilla said he did not want the President to miss his party so he decided to advance the date even if it meant that some of his children based abroad could not make it to the event.

Esplanade

The party was held at the Esplanade at the Mall of Asia complex on Macapagal Avenue in Pasay City.

He praised the President for what he said were her accomplishments.

"She has not done anything wrong. *Iba, bintang lang* (She has just been accused of doing bad things). I relish what she has done for us, and I salute her for signing into law the Anti-Terrorism Act."

Responding to Revilla's speech, Ms Arroyo, who took center stage with the Revillas, said that she didn't want to miss his party, especially his 80th birthday.

Speaking also in Filipino, the President said that she had been to all of Revilla's birthday parties since they were both in the Senate.

"I also wanted to go to Virra Mall," she said, obviously mistaking the name of the Mall of Asia for the Greenhills shopping mall. "So I said, do it on March 7."

'Unblemished record'

She praised Revilla for what she said was his unblemished record as a senator and his performance as chair of the Philippine Reclamation Authority.

"He has a good name," said Ms Arroyo. "Since he took over, there has been no scandal at the PRA. I trust him so much that I gave him more power. Now, contracts for the PRA do not have to pass the Office of the President anymore for approval."

Revilla was appointed chair of the PRA, formerly the Public Estates Authority, in July 2004 after serving three terms as a senator.

The President, who was dressed in a red gown with spaghetti straps designed by Rem Divino, arrived at 10:40 p.m. and stayed to wait for the stroke of midnight so that she could join the other well-wishers in singing "Happy Birthday" to Revilla.

The guests, a mixture of show biz and political personalities, also sang "Happy Birthday" to Revilla's son-in-law, former Sen. Robert Jaworski, who is married to one of Revilla's daughters, Evelyn.

Acknowledging the politicians who were his guests, including senatorial candidate Chavit Singson, Revilla said it would be better if elections were no longer held.

"*Barkadahan na lang* (Let's just enjoy the camaraderie of friends)," he said.

Earlier in his speech, Revilla said that he wanted to cry.

"I thank the Lord that I have reached this age," he said. "I have been attending Bible study (sessions) every Sunday. *Malapit ng pumantay ang mga paa ko* (I would be dead soon)."

Dozens of children

But he was not beyond poking fun at himself, especially at his knack for being linked to women, with whom he had fathered dozens of children.

"Don't be like me. Look how many they are," referring to his children, about 30 of them, who were also on center stage, led by his son, Bong.

"I think I can be in the Guinness Book of World Records as the man who had fathered the most number of children," Revilla quipped.

On Monday, Revilla told the INQUIRER that he had left samples of his DNA with the National Bureau of Investigation so that anybody claiming to be his child after his death could be tested against it. He also said that he had stipulated this in his will.

Dolphy

In a videotape recording of greetings from show biz and political personalities, Dolphy, another prolific procreator, joked about Revilla's number of children.

"I wish you a longer life so that there would be more Filipinos," the comedian said.

Senatorial candidate and actor Cesar Montano echoed Dolphy's wish for Revilla to have more children.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada also alluded to Revilla's number of children, saying, "You even surpassed your son Bong in this aspect."

The younger Revilla, who was recently in the news for having fathered a child outside his marriage six years ago, also said his piece about his father.

Paternal duty

Bong said that he had learned from his father the virtues of hard work, honesty and fair play.

"I learned the value of family, despite the great number of our siblings," said Bong. "He taught us that love for family does not diminish even if there are plenty of us. In fact, love has multiplied. He has never reneged on his responsibility and paternal duty to each of us."

Amulet

He described his father's amulet (*anting-anting*) which, according to urban legend, had given Revilla a long lucky streak in the box office and good health in his senior years, not as a lucky charm, but as his compassion, passion for public service and his ability to charm women.

"I also often get in trouble because of women," Bong joked.

Turning serious, Bong continued: "I cannot begin to imagine what kind of person I would be if not for the strict and nurturing guidance of Daddy. Everyone has their flaws, but despite these, there can be no other perfect father for me, other than my Dad, Ramon Revilla.

"And the best tribute I can give to him is to aspire to be like him in raising my family and in serving my country."

Bong is Revilla's second son by wife Azucena Mortel, who died in 1998. They had seven children.

Not even the hilarious Ai-Ai de las Alas, who opened the two-hour show, could rouse the audience into giving their full attention to the presentation, away from the political personalities, who continued to arrive late into the night.

Pilita Corrales, Ogie Alcasid, Jolina Magdangal, Christian Bautista, Pops Fernandez, Iya Villania, among others, sang Revilla's favorite songs.

Alcano world billiards double champion

From page A1

Yen Makabenta, chair of the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines who is in Fujairah and provided details of the tournament, said Orcollo took a 3-0 lead before Bustamante equalized by taking the next three racks. After Orcollo took the 7th frame, Bustamante knotted the count anew at 4-4.

Orcollo, however, asserted his superiority by taking six of the seven racks, thereby arranging a race-to-11 final duel with Alcano, who had earlier disposed of Feijen, billed as "The Terminator."

The wiry 6-foot Alcano, runner-up in the Korean 10-Ball Open in Incheon, Korea, last month, is aiming to duplicate the feat of Taiwanese teen sensation Wu Chia-ching, who at 16 became world champion in 8-ball and 9-ball in 2005.

En route to the alternate-break finals, Alcano also beat 2003 world champion Thorsten Hohmann of Germany, 10-3, in the round-of-32, Naif Al Jewenei of Kingdom of South Africa, 10-3, in the round-of-16 and another OFW, Elvis Calasang, 10-4, in the quarterfinals.

Orcollo counts among his victims Austrian Bun Nunan, 10-3, in the round-of-32, German Ralf Souquet, 10-8, in the round-of-16 and Swede Marcus Chamat, 10-7, in the quarterfinals.

Both Alcano and Orcollo, who'll be meeting Taiwanese Yang Ching-Shun in a $10,000 race-to-60 marathon duel on April 12-14 at the Gateway Mall in Cubao, Quezon City, are being supported in their quest for billiards glory by Perry Mariano's Bugsy Promotion.

The top finishes of the Filipinos this year nearly duplicated a sweep of the top four spots in the 2004 edition, won by billiards Hall of Famer Efren "Bata" Reyes.

Marlon Manalo, Alex Pagulayan and Francisco "Django" Bustamante placed behind Reyes that time.

In this tournament, Reyes was booted out by Chamat, 10-4, in the round of 16 while Bustamante was knocked off by Germany's Thomas Engert, 10-9, in the round-of-32.

BSCP president Ernie Fajardo said the Filipinos' performance might well herald another banner year for Philippine billiards. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

IN THE KNOW

It's black in 8-ball and yellow in 9-ball

AN EIGHT-BALL POCKET BILLIARDS game involves a rack of 15 object balls arranged in a pyramid plus a white cue ball. A player must first pocket, not necessarily following any order, either the one through seven balls (solid colored), or nine through 15 (striped).

The player who finishes pocketing either group first and then knocks the black eight-ball into a called pocket wins.

A player is declared outright winner if he pockets the eight-ball on the break, but loses if he manages to sink the eight ball before clearing his designated stripes or solids.

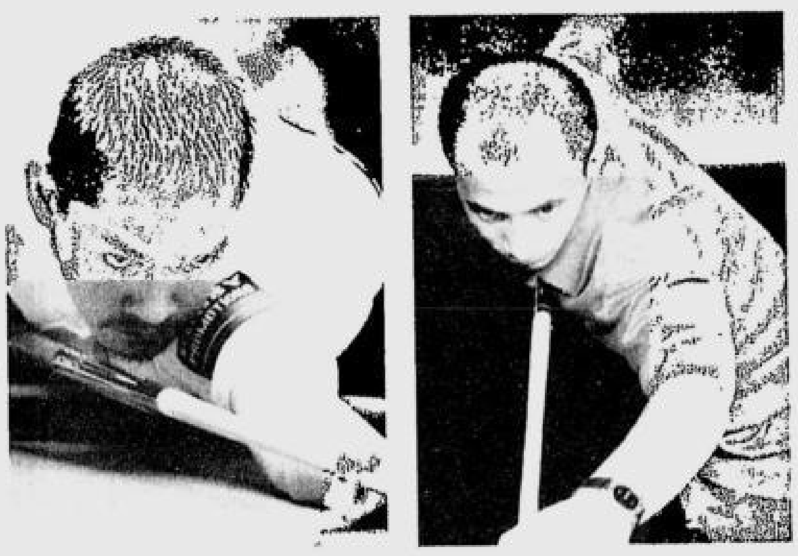
Eight-ball is a call-shot game, meaning a player should state beforehand which ball he plans to shoot into which pocket, unless the shot is obvious.

On the other hand, nine-ball involves nine object balls set up in a diamond-shaped rack and a cue ball. It is a rotation game, which means the balls must be shot in numerical order, starting from the lowest-numbered ball on the table. Thus, the player must strike the one-ball placed at the head of the rack on the break.

Like eight-ball, a player wins on the first shot if he pockets the yellow nine-ball on the break. He can also win if he makes the nine-ball on a combination (using an object ball to the get the nine) or a carom (bouncing the cue ball off an object ball to put the nine away) shot.

In both games, the player continues to take shots until he misses, commits a foul or triumphs by pocketing the eight-ball or nine-ball legally.

Of the two, the faster, made-for-TV nine-ball is more popular in tournament, fun or money games in billiard parlors across the country but eight-ball, which can become as intricate as chess, is making some headway. *Luverne Gueco, with Inquirer Research*



ALL-FILIPINO FINAL. World pool champion Ronato Alcano (far left) beat compatriot Dennis Orcollo, World Pool League champion, in an All-Filipino finale for the World 8-Ball championship in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates, last night.

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'Nicole' to drop complaint vs van driver in Subic rape

"NICOLE" IS DROPPING HER PLEA TO HAVE van driver Timoteo Soriano Jr. reinstated as a coconspirator in her rape case to focus on her other cases against American Marine Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith, who was convicted of raping her but remains under US custody.

"Petitioner informed her counsel she is no longer interested in pursuing the criminal case against the private respondent [Soriano] and would rather focus on her other cases pending before the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court against Daniel Smith," Nicole's lawyer, Evalyn Ursua, said in the motion dated March 1.

Ursua said her client was tired from the rigors of the trial against the four US Marines she had accused of raping her and did not want to go through a similar experience.

"Petitioner would not wish to go through another round of a criminal trial against the private respondent after her exhausting experience with the trial against the four US Marines involved in the instant case," she said.

Nicole had earlier questioned in the appellate court the Olongapo regional trial court's decision to drop Soriano as a coconspirator in the rape case she had filed against him and the Marines.

Soriano drove the van in which the rape took place. At first, he said he had witnessed a gang rape—with Smith forcing himself on Nicole as his three colleagues cheered him on.

He later recanted his statement, saying he had been forced to sign it.

The prosecution tried to call Soriano as a witness in the Marines' trial, but he refused invoking his right against self-incrimination.

Of the four Marines, only Smith was convicted. The other three—Chad Carpentier, Dominic Duplantis and Keith Silkwood—have since left the Philippines. *Leila B. Salaverria*

Palace: Heads must roll for nursing leak

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

BUNYE

IT'S TIME THE CULPRITS WERE PUNISHED.'

Malacañang now wants those responsible for the June 2006 nursing exam leak prosecuted as quickly as possible, after it was forced to order a partial retake of the test and to pay for it.

The scandal caused by the leak of exam questions should serve as a hard lesson to all, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday.

"President Arroyo expects the wheels of justice to start rolling against those who tainted the integrity of the nursing profession," Bunye said.

The President's spokesperson said Malacañang welcomed the Ombudsman's move of filing corruption charges against two former members of the Professional Regulation Commission—Anesia Dionisio and Virginia Madeja—who were suspected of leaking questions to Tests 3 and 5 to review centers in Manila and Baguio City.

Bunye said the Palace was "prepared to work with Congress in order to ensure that stiffer penalties would be imposed on those who would mess with the integrity of all our licensure examinations as we aim to prevent the recurrence of a similar incident."

Exam retake

The leak cast a cloud over the 17,000 nurses who passed the exam. The government stood by the nurses after the test scores were recomputed but the United States-based Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS), which issues VisaScreen certificates to nurses seeking employment in the US, said they would have to retake leak-tainted Tests 3 and 5 if they wanted to work in that country.

The President initially supported the appeal team led by Rep. Monico Puentevella that flew to Philadelphia to plead the nurses' cases before the CGFNS.

But the CGFNS reiterated to the team that its decision was final, leaving President Arroyo no choice but to order Labor Secretary Arturo Brion, to lay down the guidelines for the retake.

The President also said the government would pay each nurse's P900 reexamination fee.

Some nurses had asked the government to pay their review fees as well, which runs to thousands of pesos each, but there was no word from Malacañang if this would be granted.

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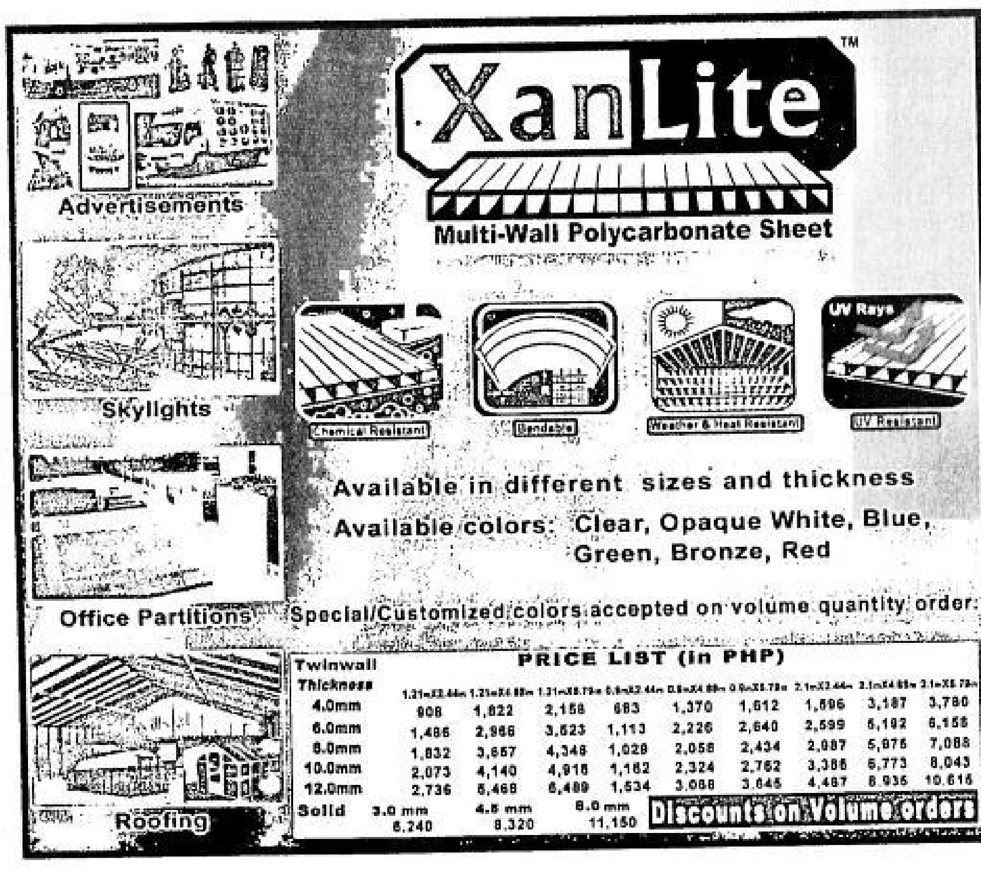
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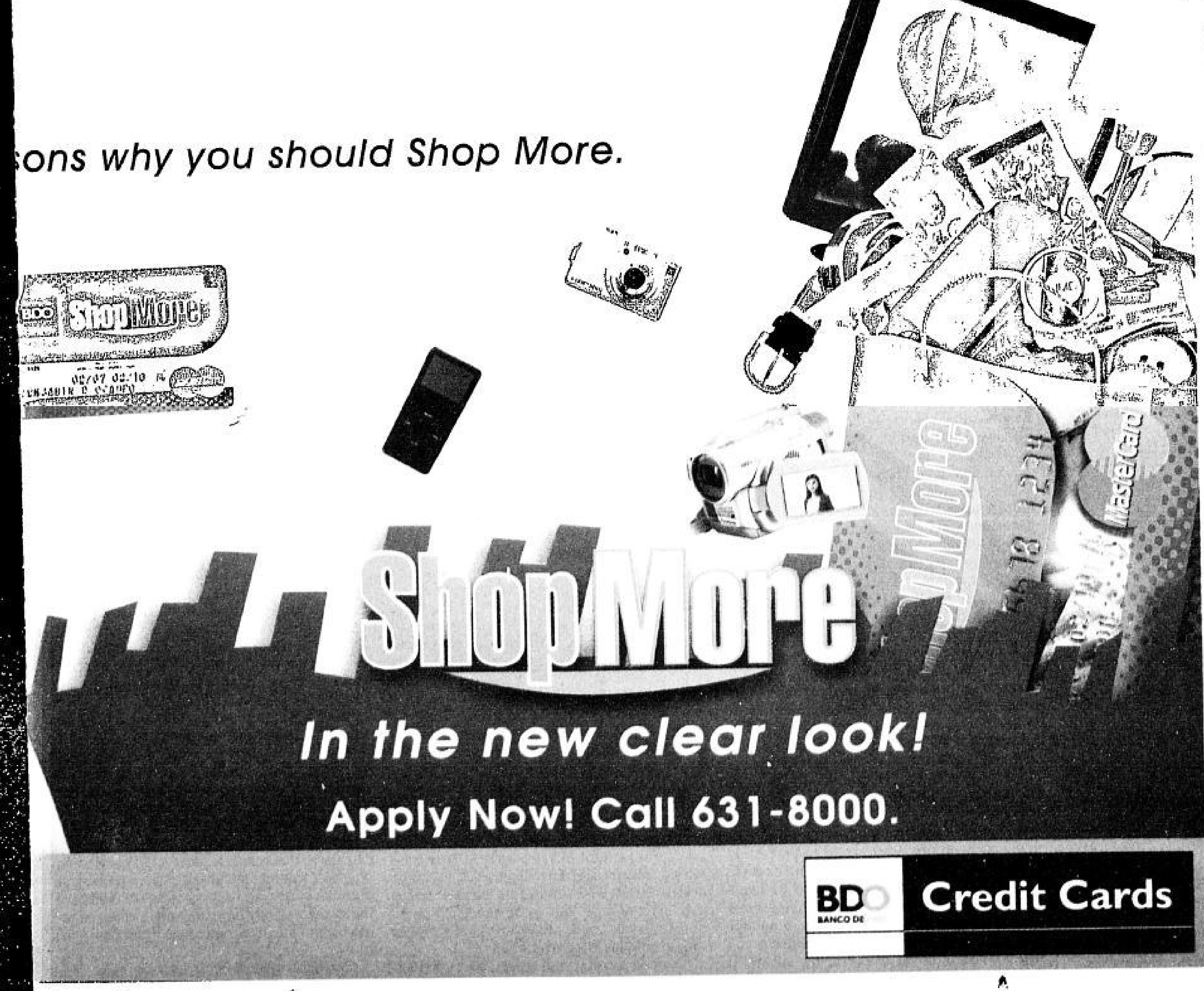
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Web of lies

EDITORIAL

WHAT IS WORSE THAN A LIE? A BLATANT LIE that fools no one, yet makes fools of everyone. Consider the many reasons the Armed Forces top brass have given for deploying soldiers to certain urban poor communities in Manila (Sta. Mesa, Tondo and Pandacan), in Quezon City (Payatas and Tandang Sora) and in Taguig since last November.

This is an unusual deployment that makes even administration candidates like Senators Joker Arroyo and Ralph Recto wary. No amount of retrospective spin from Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, an ex-general who used to head the AFP's civil-military operations some two decades ago, can make the posting of soldiers right in the middle of the national capital region a routine, regular thing. (Indeed, the AFP's current NCR commander, Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, called the deployment a "novel approach.")

What makes it even more unusual is that various military spokesmen have given different justifications for it.

Dolorfino said the military was merely "being proactive" by launching an initiative in "community-based peace and development." He also said the deployment, which alarmed militant organizations which consider the urban poor areas their bailiwick and see the posting of soldiers as election-related harassment, was meant to help stop "the culture of rebellion."

In notifying the Commission on Human Rights about its deployment plan in Metro Manila, however, the military offered peace and order (that is to say, the need to stop lawlessness) as the reason. CHR Commissioner Wilhelm Soriano recalled that the AFP justified the deployment as part of an "internal security plan" to enhance security and "to assist the police in maintaining the peace and order" in the immersion areas.

Repeated versions of this rationalization prompted police Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr. to question the deployment itself. Razon emphasized that maintaining law and order is the responsibility of the Philippine National Police, not the AFP. Anti-crime operations are not the province of the military, he added.

In another instance, after the Commission on Elections asked the AFP to explain the deployment after leftist party-list groups complained, AFP spokesman Maj. Gen. Jose Angel Honrado said there was no order to pull the soldiers out of their controversial postings. But when he was asked why the soldiers were deployed in Metro Manila in the first place, he could only sputter: "I don't want to answer that. Let's wait for our reply to the Comelec."

Apparently, the true reasons are a work in progress.

Today, the official reason has changed to peacekeeping training: The AFP says the soldiers have been deployed as part of their preparation to become valuable members of international peacekeeping missions.

That must explain why they are heavily armed. The unflappable Ermita, asked about this ominous feature of their assignment, merely sidestepped the issue by calling on the soldiers to wear, not their battle dress, but their "general office attire."

But the real reason for the growing public unease about the troop deployment (which not even the spin-making abilities of Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye could rationalize; he said the military was in a better position to explain) lies in recent experience.

First, under the controversial Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, the military conducted "saturation drives" in Central Luzon that succeeded in instilling fear in the target communities, instead of helping the AFP win hearts and minds. A number of residents disappeared under mysterious circumstances, while barangay halls and community basketball courts were turned into military detachments.

Second, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon has let the cat out of the proverbial bag. A few days ago, he said that the soldiers' real mission in Metro Manila was to hunt down criminals and New People's Army fugitives taking refuge in the slums (the first seems like an add-on, a rationalization; the second is right on target). That is fine as far as it goes, although one can argue about the counter-insurgency strategy Esperon subscribes to. But he also said that the soldiers were posted in the slums because some residents had complained that "they are tired of party-list representatives visiting them."

There you go. The true reason finally lies revealed: Under Esperon, the AFP brass sees the military as neutral for the partisan objectives of the Arroyo administration.

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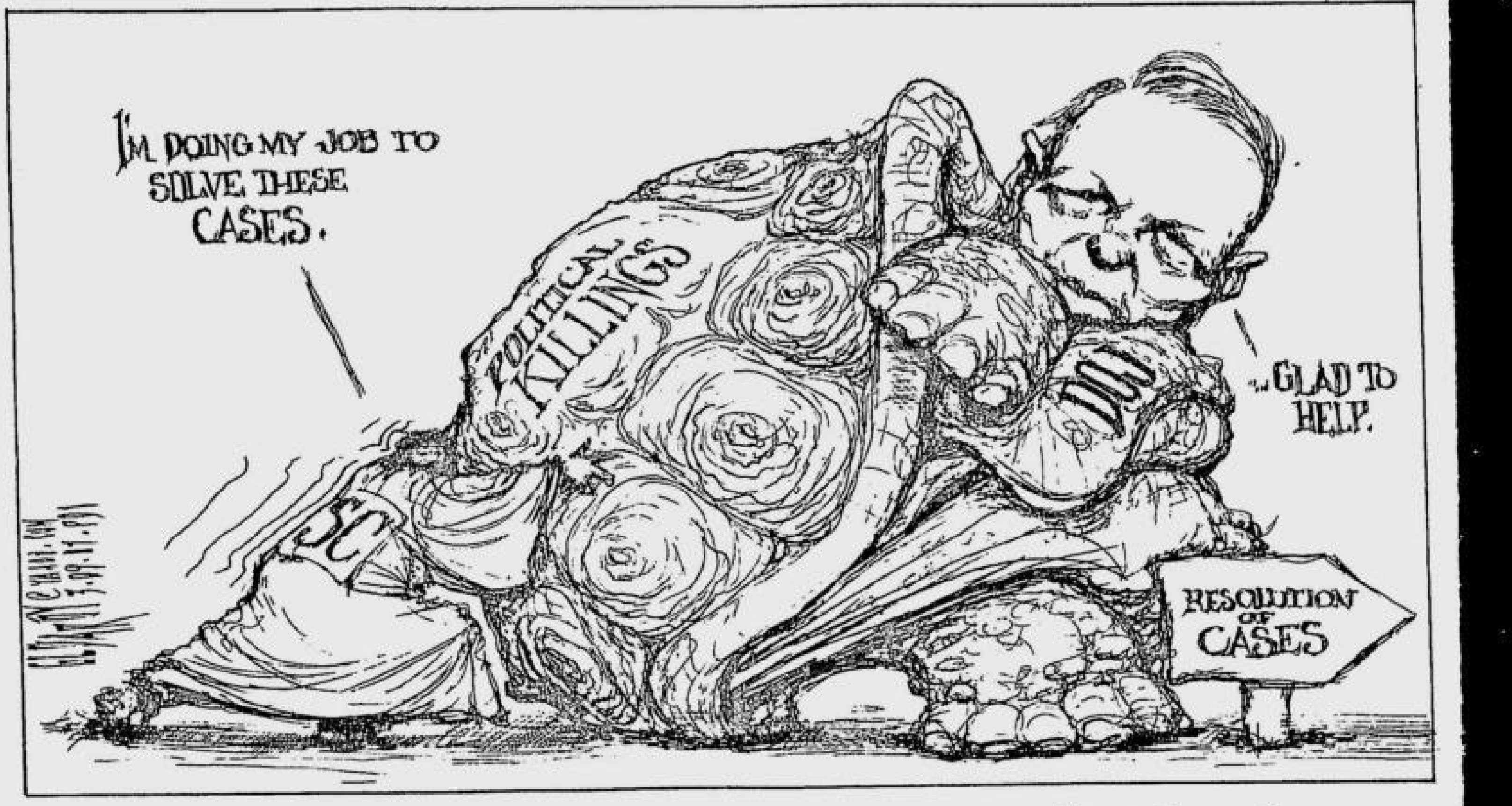

Cojuangcos should return PTIC dividends

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

IF YOU ASK A CANDIDATE WHY HE IS RUNNING for public office, 9 times out of 10, he will reply that he wants to serve the country and serve the people, or some other motherhood statement.

Lawyer Rufus Rodriguez has a different answer: He wants Mindanao to get an equitable share of the national budget in proportion to its contribution to the national wealth. He wants to unite all the congressmen of Mindanao, from all political parties, to push for the economic growth of the island.

Rodriguez, a former immigration commissioner, former vice governor of Misamis Oriental and former Erap spokesperson, is running for a congressional seat in Cagayan de Oro. He believes that for decades, Mindanao has been getting the short end of the bargain in the allocation of the national budget.

Citing Neda statistics, Rodriguez said that while Mindanao has 22 percent of the country's population and contributes almost 20 percent to the national wealth or Gross Domestic Product, it gets back only 10 percent of the national budget. For example, the budget this year is P1.3 trillion. If only 10 percent of that is allocated to Mindanao, only P130 billion would go to it, when it should be 20 percent or P260 billion. Every year, Mindanao loses P130 billion, or 10 percent of its equitable share of the national budget.

The sum of P130 billion will go a long way in building more roads, bridges, school buildings, seaports, airports, medicines and agricultural support, Rodriguez says. It will improve the lives of families in Mindanao.

Indeed, there are a series of paradoxes in the case of Mindanao:

Mindanao is the second biggest island in the archipelago. It produces 44 percent of all traded agricultural products. It has 48 percent of gold and 63 percent of nickel deposits in the country as well as other minerals. It enjoys a comparative advantage over the other regions, being typhoon-free and having vast fertile lands and rich marine resources.

In spite of all these, Mindanaoans are suffering from widespread poverty and government neglect:

1. Seven of the 10 poorest provinces are in Mindanao, with Zamboanga del Norte being the poorest, with 64.6 percent of families rated very poor, having a per capita income of less than P12,575 per year or P34 per day.

2. Other poor provinces are Maguindanao (2nd at 60.4 percent), Surigao del Norte (4th, 54.5 percent), Agusan del Sur (5th, 52.8 percent), Surigao del Sur (6th, 48.6 percent), Misamis Occidental (7th, 48.1 percent), Lanao del Norte (10th, 46.5 percent).

3. Mindanao has fewer concrete and asphalt roads, farm-to-market roads, bridges and school buildings compared to Luzon and the Visayas.

4. Mindanao is not proportionately represented in the national government (only one senator out of 24, only two out of 25 party-list congressmen and only one secretary of a line agency). Policies and programs affecting Mindanao are promulgated and implemented with little or no participation of Mindanaoans. Under the centralized system of government, Rodriguez said, Mindanao has been left behind in development. All decision-making and allocation of funds are in the hands of Imperial Manila.

Mindanao used to be called the "Land of Promise." But until now, it is just a "Land of Unfulfilled Promises," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez, by the way, has impeccable credentials. He is a De La Salle economics graduate, summa cum laude (unlike some self-proclaimed economists). He obtained his Master of Laws degree, magna cum laude, from the Columbia School of Law in New York. He was valedictorian in high school as well as in grade school.

* * *

My attention was drawn to an advertisement in the INQUIRER last March 5. "Cough up our money!" the headline said. It was addressed to Tonyboy Cojuangco, former head of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT).

"Tonyboy Cojuangco was forced last year by the Supreme Court to return 111,415 shares of the Philippine Telecommunication Investment Corp. (PTIC) for their being part of the ill-gotten Marcos wealth," the ad said.

That's the end of it? "No sir!" the ad went on. "There is still the unfinished business of collecting from Tonyboy the dividends that accrued from the PTIC shares. He's not yet off the hook until he coughs up the money that belongs to the Filipino people."

The ad was bought and paid for by a number of labor organizations. Their logic goes like this: If the PTIC shares of the Cojuangcos were ill-gotten, as the Supreme Court declared, then the dividends earned by these shares were also ill-gotten. And if those PTIC shares belong to Filipinos, then the dividends also belong to us. (As a backgrounder, the Presidential Commission on Good Government sequestered the Cojuangco shares in PTIC in 1986 for being part of the controversial Marcos wealth. However, the Cojuangcos were able to prolong their hold on the shares and dividends by contesting in court the sequestration. During all these years, the Cojuangcos collected the dividends on those shares.)

Late last year, the Supreme Court ordered the government to take over the PTIC shares of the Cojuangcos. The government subsequently sold the shares for P25.2 billion. The only remaining issue is the continuing refusal of the Cojuangcos to return the dividends.

How much are these dividends worth? In 1993, then Rep. Joker Arroyo estimated it at over $500 million. Today, that amount must have already tripled. There are those who estimate that the dividends may now be even bigger in value than the shares. Going by that estimate, if the sale of the sequestered shares fetched P25.2 billion, then the dividends that the Cojuangcos should return cannot be less than that.

'Comfort women': Japan's willful amnesia

Passion for Reason

Raul C. Pangalangan

JAPAN'S PRIME MINISTER SHINZO ABE CONtinues to deny truths that the Japanese government had in the past already admitted. Japanese disclaimers turn upon highly nuanced technical distinctions that only lawyers can conjure, and which should make the Filipino shed off his bizarre fetish for excessively legalistic thinking.

This much is known and fully documented: Starting in 1932 in Shanghai, the Japanese Army established "comfort stations," and by the end of World War II, between 100,000 and 200,000 young women were duped or coerced into a system of military sexual slavery. A survivor gave this first-hand testimony: "I was forced to have sex with 10 to 20 men every day. As a result, I was continuously raw. Red raw. Sex was excruciating. Oh, you have no idea how painful it was!"

The damning documents were originally discovered in Japan's own Self Defence Agency Library, and successive reports by the Japanese government admitted that a widespread system of comfort stations existed. The United Nations has issued its own findings, as well as the International Commission of Jurists in Geneva. A people's tribunal has been convened, with respected international law experts as judges. All of them confirm the "bone-chilling" story of the comfort women.

Abe's denials, however, seize upon the finer points. First is the nature of the "comfort stations" as merely "on-site military brothels," which would reduce the survivors into mere prostitutes. Abe says: "There was no evidence to prove there was coercion as initially suggested. That largely changes what constitutes the definition of coercion, and we have to take it from there."

Yet Japan's own records show that a good many of the victims were seized in slave raids, others through false promises of work as cooks and laundrywomen, followed by forcible detention. A Korean survivor, who was kidnapped at the age of 14, related: "I was playing jump-rope in front of my house when a [car] pulled over. I had never seen a car before in my village. [I was] curious and naïve [and] climbed in with my friend. Immediately, the car rolled on with us in it, and then kept on going and going, never returning me to my village."

A second distinction is whether there was direct military involvement, and whether lacking the direct imprimatur of the Japanese state, the offense can be "attributed" to Japan's state responsibility. It is this fiction that the Japanese government continues to maintain when, having apologized for the wartime enslavement of the women, it proceeds to offer compensation to be paid, not by the government itself, but through a private fund. It is this fiction that the Filipino comfort women have rejected.

Indeed while the Japanese army initially ran the comfort stations, they claim that they eventually sub-contracted the work, as more stations were set up as the Japanese army advanced all over Asia. Yet the private concessionaires enjoyed a privileged status and worked hand-in-hand with the army, its transport facilities (to move the stations together with the troops) and its health facilities (for when they tested the women for sexually transmitted diseases). Scholars have found edicts by no less than the emperor laying the basis for the creation of the comfort stations.

The saga of the comfort women should teach us deeper lessons. When the world finally confronted their ordeal, the debate took a very legalistic turn. What was the offense committed. Was it rape? The victims said no. To be beaten into sexual submission once or twice, that may be rape. But to be raped 20 to 30 times every day over two years—certainly that should amount to a graver offense.

So was it slavery? And indeed it was, a violation *jus cogens*, the most authoritative ban under international law. But no, the comfort women retorted. Our ordeal was so intimate, so personal, and must be distinguished from the ordeal of POWs "enslaved" merely to build railroads and bridges, not for their genitals to be savaged over and over again.

So was it "sexual slavery" then? This time, the lawyers objected. Then that won't be *jus cogens* anymore! Why replace a bland but binding norm (slavery) with a new-fangled but soft norm (sexual slavery), all for the sake of the victims' feelings? Why burst into imeldific melody just when the culprits were caught with their pants down, so to speak?

As a law professor, I shudder when people's imaginations are taken over by legal discourse, the law's adepts and notables dangling a justice that is not theirs to give. War distorts reason, and displaces what I hold, perhaps naïvely, to be the native impulse to be just and fair.

If you look at the official documents that established the "comfort stations," you would think they were written not by some depraved maniac but by a proper, bespectacled lawyer or bureaucrat. "We need to maintain the morale of our fighting men, to stop our troops from raping women and antagonizing captive populations, to control the spread of venereal disease among the troops that dissipate effective combat strength, and to insulate the men from the risk of espionage in local brothels."

How sober, how calculated, how coldly rational ... yet evil and heartless.

Maxima Regala dela Cruz, a Filipino survivor, said: "We went back home and we were crying. We couldn't tell anyone or we would be executed. It was so shameful, so we dug a deep hole and covered it."

For Maxima's war-time enslavement, we can blame the Japanese, but for her continuing post-war trauma and shame, we must look at our own biases, and ask ourselves whether we inflict pain merely by sustaining a civilized façade when the times demand a righteous rage.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Survey shows anti-administration sentiment

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE SOCIAL WEATHER STATIONS SURVEY ON senatorial preferences released on Wednesday showed the opposition candidates grabbing 9 of 12 slots. The survey results, conducted from Feb. 24 to 27, are the first to be released after the start of the campaign on Feb. 12.

Although issues had not crystallized by the end of February, the results laid bare an undercurrent of anti-administration sentiment nationwide, translating into an early preference for opposition candidates. The results at least represent straws in the wind, which the administration cannot brush aside without courting disaster.

The survey came as a much-needed shot in the arm for the floundering campaign of the Genuine Opposition, but administration quarters could be telling themselves that the campaign has still two months to go, and many things could still happen before the last lap of the campaign. This is not a time for rejoicing in the GO ranks. They still have to catch up and get their campaign going after it sputtered in disarray during the past three weeks.

Although it is premature to draw a firm profile from the early SWS survey, the results indicate where the preferences lie, more than revealing the anti-administration mood of the nation. The ranking of preferences bear close examination. Here it is: (1) Francis Pangilinan; (2) Loren Legarda; (3) Senate President Manuel Villar; (4) Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano; (5) Sen. Panfilo Lacson; (6 and 7) a tie between Rep. Francis Escudero and Sen. Ralph Recto; (8) former Sen. Vicente Sotto III; (9 and 10) a tie between former Sen. John Osmeña and Rep. Benigno Aquino III; (11) former Sen. Gregorio Honasan; (12) Sen. Joker Arroyo; (13) Sen. Edgardo Angara; (14) Aquilino Pimentel III .

All the first six slots went to opposition candidates. Of the 12 slots, nine went to the opposition. According to opposition strategists, it needs nine to gain the majority in the Senate. The remaining three went to Recto, Sotto and Arroyo. Angara was hanging on the borderline, in 13th place, with the margin of error of plus-minus 3 percentage points.

Four in the winning circle are reelectionists: Pangilinan, Villar, Arroyo and Recto. Five are former senators: Legarda, Lacson, Sotto, Osmeña and Honasan. Villar is officially carried by the GO ticket. Pangilinan was originally included in the GO, but was ditched following his insistence on running as an "independent." Honasan is running as an independent. But despite their protestations of independence, Pangilinan and Honasan belong to the anti-Arroyo side of the division.

These survey findings reveal the weaknesses and strengths of both tickets. For the opposition, it points to the candidates who should be its cutting edge and on whom it has to pour limited sources. For Team Unity, the results exposed its thin strike force—the wedge of Recto, Sotto, Arroyo and possibly Angara—who could avert a rout. Team Unity needs to reinforce them.

The SWS said in a statement that "the survey points to at least an 8-4 and at most a 10-2 score in favor of non-Team Unity as of the end of February."

Between Angara and Michael Defensor who is in 15th place, there is quite a wide gap to overcome. Significant as an indicator of the voters' mood is that among the Team Unity candidates, Defensor is the most closely identified with President Macapagal-Arroyo. He also represents the Arroyo Cabinet in the administration ticket. And he appears to be the lightning rod of the public backlash against the administration.

From my end, it's quite hard to foresee how the administration can pull up its other candidates, who trail all the way down to 25th place (Gov. Luis Singson of Ilocos Sur).

Given the issues mounting on the administration as the campaign progresses, it does not seem to me that the administration will increase its popularity in the next few weeks.

The results point to the need for drastic revision of the strategies of both the opposition and the administration camps. The danger that the opposition should guard against is sliding back into complacency. What the results have given them is the opportunity to regain their momentum which they lost at the beginning of the campaign. The opposition has a history of bungling its campaign by underestimating the resources and the grass-roots machinery of the administration.

Also, GO is still a fractious team and its leading candidates, especially those who proclaim their independence, tend to work only for themselves. They don't lend a hand to their colleagues. If the opposition becomes too ambitious and aims for a clean sweep, it is likely to fail. It should be prudent and trim its sails and maximize exposure of issues that are beginning to hurt the administration.

The capacity of Team Unity to mobilize the rural vote, where it is strong, and deliver the vote, cannot be underestimated. The machine that delivered the vote to Ms Arroyo in 2004 is still intact and is even more amply funded now than it was in the last elections.

Given the odds against it, it is unrealistic for Team Unity to aspire for any result better than 6-6. Its strategy has to aim at cutting its losses. From the way the administration has been conducting its campaign, its real objective seems to be to concentrate its logistics and mobilize its grass-roots machinery on the elections for members of the House of Representatives. The aim is to retain its majority in the House. The real battle is over control of the House and this is where the opposition campaign is thin and weak.

Whether or not the Arroyo presidency will be a lame duck after May will be decided by the results of the elections for the House.

Judging their 'greenness'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HERE IS THE REST OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE sent by the 2007 Green Electoral Initiative (GEI), spearheaded by Greenpeace and the EcoWaste Coalition, to all senatorial candidates in this year's polls. Based on the candidates' answers, groups involved in the GEI will then rate the candidates on degree of "greenness," that is, their awareness of, advocacy for and dedication to environmental issues. I would also presume that the candidates' replies would be used as a checklist against which their subsequent legislative work—advocacy and voting record—would be compared, assuming they do get elected to office.

As I said in a previous column, I'm reprinting the questionnaire in this space so that other groups could replicate it and present it to congressional candidates in their districts as well as to aspirants for local positions, since the same issues are a matter of local concern as well.

* * *

TOXIC WASTE TRADE AND JPEPA

1. Malacañang has submitted the Japan-Philippine Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) to the Senate for ratification. Considering the concerns raised by different sectors over the absence of democratic consultation and participation of civil society, and also regarding the toxic and nuclear waste trade, and other exploitative provisions under the proposed treaty, will you vote to reject or ratify JPEPA? Why?

2. Parties to the Basel Convention adopted in 1995 the Basel Ban Amendment, which prohibits the trans-boundary movements of hazardous waste from developed to developing countries for any purpose. The Philippines is a party to the Basel Convention but is yet to ratify the Basel Ban Amendment. Will you initiate and support the ratification of the Basel Ban Amendment in the 14th Congress, and work to amend RA 6969 which contains a loophole that allows toxic and hazardous wastes to be sent to the Philippines for "economic reasons"?

3. The dumping of post consumer goods from developed to poorer countries containing toxic wastes, such as electronic waste, is becoming a global concern. There are efforts underway in the developed world, particularly in Europe to hold manufacturers of these products responsible for the take-back and proper recycling at their end-of-life. Will you support legislative measures that will hold manufacturers accountable for their products at end-of-life?

* * *

GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOs)

1. What steps will you take to protect the country's biodiversity and public health from the contamination and unpredictable adverse effects of the release and use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in agriculture and food?

2. Despite widespread rejection of genetically modified (GM) rice in markets worldwide, illegal genetically modified rice is being sold in Philippine supermarkets and approval for the use of another GM rice strain for food, feed and processing is currently pending at the Bureau of Plant Industry. Do you support the introduction and commercialization of GM rice in the country?

3. Would you support the mandatory labelling of all products containing GM organisms sold in the Philippines?

SUSTAINABLE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

1. Will you support legislation that will remove subsidies to synthetic farm inputs as well as measures that would significantly reduce the use of pesticides and agricultural chemicals in the country? Will you support a move to rechannel these subsidies to the promotion of organic agriculture practices?

2. Will you support legislation that will shift the DA's policy orientation from chemically based and synthetic agriculture towards the development of sustainable and organic agriculture as defined by Executive Order 481 or the Promotion and Development of Organic Agriculture in the Philippines?

* * *

LOGGING

1. What measures would you propose to advance community-based forest management and enforcement of laws against illegal logging? Do you agree that natural forests should be kept free from commercial logging or conversion into other uses?

2. Will you support a five-year moratorium on commercial logging to allow our forests to regenerate and while our communities are trained to do community-based forest management and monitor their respective areas?

MINING

1. What legislative measures will you initiate to make mining companies accountable for the acute and long-term impacts caused by their activities on public health and the environment?

2. Will you support a community-based, environment-friendly small-scale mining legislation?

3. How do you intend to uphold the Indigenous People's Rights Act (Ipra) and National Integrated Protected Area System (Nipas), especially in the context of these laws' outstanding conflicts and inconsistencies with provisions to the Mining Act?

AIR POLLUTION

1. Air pollution remains a serious threat to public health. What legislative steps will you initiate to make the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999 more effective? Would you support a ban on the importation of dirty, second-hand diesel engines?

2. What legislative measures will you propose that would mainstream the production and use of clean fuels, increase motor efficiency and reduce fuel consumption?

YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL TRACK RECORD

1. Please enumerate and describe your earlier and existing initiative(s) in the environmental field (not necessarily in the legislative area), including sponsoring, voting, history in Congress with respect to environmental bills, environmental programs implemented, benefits for the environment, etc. Please include your party platform on the environment, if any.

Librarians

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

EACH TIME I'M INVITED TO SPEAK ON THE topic "How to make history interesting," I wonder whether there is really something basically wrong about history. You have to stop and think twice to differentiate between history and history teaching. I often tell my audience that history is interesting, and if they think otherwise, then they must have had a competent but boring history teacher. When readers tell me how they enjoyed these columns, I realize my history is always unfairly compared with some forgettable school textbooks. Thus, the issue is not the subject, the problem often lies with the way it is taught or communicated.

Most people assume that historians, teachers and librarians lead boring lives as there are other jobs which are more taxing to patience and the brain, like operating an elevator in a crowded shopping mall. Perception and reality are two different things, yet we have examples like that in the opening episode of the latest season of "Pinoy Big Brother" where the housemates make small talk to get to know one another. When a woman inquired about his job, one of the men replied, "I have a boring job back home—abroad." Hearing this the girl, without thinking, exclaimed, "Are you a librarian?" To which the man replied, "No, I'm a salesman."

It is unfortunate that people have prejudged certain types of work, like those of librarians, teachers and even historians, as "boring" professions. Worse, there is a stereotype image of an uptight, four-eyed woman like the comic book's "Miss Tapia" who spends her time scolding, or silencing students and library users.

I have known many eminent librarians, including our National Librarian Prudenciana Cruz who is several kilos heavier than Miss Tapia, or the University of the Philippines' librarian Salvacion Arlante who has the same eyeglasses and demeanor but not the hair-do. Then there are the librarians at the Lopez Museum and the Ateneo Rizal Library, both young ones and "young once," who do not fit the stereotype.

Libraries have come a long way since the Middle Ages. We do not have signs that scream "SILENCE" anymore; people are encouraged to converse as long as they do not disturb others. I was surprised while reading St. Augustine's "Confessions" to realize that libraries were not the sterile, quiet places we have today. Augustine related how odd his teacher, St. Ambrose, was because this man read books, silently, with his eyes not with his lips. The practice was for people to read aloud because it was believed that this was the way the so-called "voice of the pages" came to life, how words on a page were incarnated in a reader's vocal chords and how they entered the ears and then traveled two ways to both the head and the heart.

Nobody reads this way anymore, with the exception of monks doing what is called *lectio divina* or "holy reading," and adults reading audibly to young children.

Librarians of the past worked primarily with books or printed materials in general. The custodian of manuscripts and public records was an archivist, who preserved artifacts and worked in a museum. But the world has become interdisciplinary and librarians now deal with information in general and these come in many forms, aside from books, magazines, journals and printed works. Libraries now have audio and video recordings, maps, paintings, photographs and other graphic material. They sometimes have museum-quality artifacts, manuscripts and other archival material. And they also have the Internet.

Aside from information services, libraries now provide computer training, basic literacy education, public cultural programs, historical research and other community resources. I think that the only relevant item missing from the present job description of a librarian in a public setting is baby-sitting and poll-watching, which is traditionally left to teachers.

Knowing the present demands on librarians and the fact that they are now regulated by the Professional Regulatory Commission, I was pleased to see over 200 participants in a seminar organized by the National Library on the theme, "Enhance Knowledge and Skills: the Retooled Librarian." With Bohol as the venue, one could look forward to the post-conference activities, but if I were a librarian, I would argue about the term "retooled," which is better used to describe spare parts for broken cars. Any librarian will benefit from enhanced knowledge and skills, but do they require "re-tooling"? If we translate this into Filipino, retooling is for those best described as having "*maluwag na tornilyo*" or loose screw somewhere.

While technology has moved on, coping with it remains one of the challenges to a librarian today. We who live in the 21st century marvel when told that Rizal copied out, by hand, the entire "Sucesos de las islas Filipinas" in the British Library, or how, as a boy growing up in Rosales, Pangasinan, National Artist F. Sionil Jose read at night by an electric post outside his humble home. Technology has made life easier but, has it made people read things longer and deeper than a text message on a phone? A librarian is a gateway to information, and how he or she fulfills the job is a way to social change.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Gender gender

MARCH IS MARKED BY A FLURRY OF ACTIVITIES AROUND women's issues, a takeoff from International Women's Day on the 7th. Over the last few years, people have extended the month's focus to "gender awareness" (sometimes said half in jest, "oh, gender gender *na naman*"), to mean a focus on women's issues and concerns.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

All that is fine, but teaching in many local and international gender courses, I've realized that this focus on gender-as-women can also be a disadvantage, even adversely affecting the effectivity of programs that seek to address women's issues. Gender awareness must deal with all forms of inequities, regardless of gender.

So, for today's column, I thought we should revisit the term, and identify some of the genders in the Philippines. (Do you want to give a preliminary guess right now? Two? Three? Four? Do I hear five?) Over the next month, I'll do a few more columns, going into more details and why it's so important to set the genders straight (pardon the pun).

Sex to gender

Let's get back to the basic terms. When you fill out an application form and see "Sex," you're tempted to answer something like "rarely" or "often" but dutifully fill in "M" or "F", for the two sexes to which about 98 or 99 percent of the population belongs, by virtue of chromosomes and anatomy. (The remaining, and the numbers are quite large in absolute terms, belong to intersex categories, something I explained in an earlier column.)

Gender is different, with quite complex origins. Derived from the Latin "*genus*," it meant "kind" or "type" (as in type of object). Filipinos use the term "*kasarian*," which comes close to this meaning, a category that distinguishes one thing from another; thus "*sari-sari*" means different things, but "*ka-sari-an*" means "of one kind."

The term's oldest use, attributed to the Greek philosopher Protagoras, was grammatical. In English, objects are referred to with a neutral "a" or "the" but in many other languages, it's a bit more complicated. Spanish, for example, uses the feminine article "*la*" and the masculine article "*el*", so while the body is male (*el cuerpo*), its different parts may be male (like the eye, *el ojo*) or female (such as the head, *la cabeza*).

Gender can also mean "to produce," which goes back to the Greek "*gen*" (to produce). This idea of production, even of origins, is reflected in words like "gene," "genesis" and "engender." One translation of Leviticus 19:19 reads: "Thou shalt not let thy cattle gender with a diverse kind," meaning in this case "to breed."

In the 1950s, the term mutated once more to mean socially constructed or socially defined categories, roles, statuses and identities. Gender goes beyond the biological to refer to the way societies classify people, with all kinds of expectations from the way we walk, talk and dress, to the careers or occupations we can pursue. We grow up with those expectations and adopt gender identities, conforming with, or rebelling against, society's expectations.

Let's use "*lalake*" as an example. As a biological category, it's fairly straightforward, with a certain physical conformation, and appendages (in Filipino, "*kung may lawit*"). But *lalake* as a gender category is much more elaborate: you're supposed to talk like Noli de Castro, walk like Erap, and if in medical school, become a surgeon. Dare to deviate, a slight flick of the wrist without the wristband, a voice that's slightly too high-pitched, or becoming, heavens (oops, even words like "heavens"), a dermatologist, and eyebrows are raised, questioning your "*pagkalalake*".

How many?

That's gender. I'm exaggerating the stereotypes, but the expectations can be quite severe and strict, pounded into our heads from the day we are born up to the day we are buried.

Over the years, many of us who handled gender seminars and courses would explain that in the Philippines, we have more than two genders, and rattle them off: *lalake, babae, bakla, tibo, silahis*. The problem with this list is that people then begin to think that gender refers to sexual orientation, thinking of "*bakla*" as "male homosexual," "*tibo*" as "lesbian" and "*silahis*" as "bisexual," while "*lalake*" and "*babae*" are "heterosexual."

All that wasn't quite correct. Gender goes beyond both biological sex and sexual orientation. In fact, as more social scientists from non-Western societies began to do sexuality research, myself included, we pointed out the inadequacies of many terms coming from the United States and Europe.

"*Bakla*" isn't a matter of sexual orientation alone. It's used more often to refer to a man who is effeminate. So what happens to a man who walks like Noli and talks like Erap but "likes" other men? Now that really confuses Filipinos: Is he *lalake*? Is he *bakla*? Maybe, many will conclude, he is *silahis*.

Then you have men who are really effeminate but don't have the slightest attraction to other men. Are they *lalake*? Or *bakla*?

I won't give you the answers yet. I just wanted to give examples to show how convoluted genders are, and there are many.

"*Madre*" is an occupational category, but sometimes, women will joke, "*Madre ako ngayon*", which means she has moved into a gender category, albeit temporarily, "*madre*" meaning a non-sexual person, at least activity-wise.

Then there's "*manang*." Originally meant as a term of respect, it now refers to older women who tend to be self-righteous and prudish, a takeoff from the middle-aged women who cluster around parish priests, helping to take care of the church but also ending up as a kind of council of elders keeping the priest updated on the town's sinners.

Today, a "*manang*" can be a younger or older person, single or married, male or female, the gender connotations now extended to include other forms of behavior. If we could confer MS degrees, (Master's in Sulsulan, loosely translated, the vicious and persistent whispering that destroys people's reputations), the *manang* would be masters of the masters.

Hey, my feminist friends are probably muttering now, when do we get to the inequity part and gender oppression and persecution? Patience, my friends, patience. We have the whole month to do that. What I hope I cleared today is that gender is more than sexual orientation. Just looking at the "*manang*," you can see "*manang*-hood" is an extension of the more negative aspects of local feminity, of putting up a façade of chasteness and of becoming self-appointed guardians of morality. The "*manang*" is often a woman, but she can be more oppressive to other women than the men are.

In future columns, we'll look at other examples of genders: the metrosexual, the *baklita*, the *matandang binata*, maybe a bit more on the *manang*. Learn to differentiate the *matona* from the *matrona*. Learn why being a Spice Boy, as in being Paminta, isn't necessarily a good thing. And with elections coming around, learn to sniff out the candidates' gender, and how that might affect governance.

Stay tuned.

A call to responsible citizens

TO MAKE UP FOR THE SORRY state of the party system and our democracy, the responsible sectors of our society should explore ways of screening candidates while educating voters. With thousands of professionals to draw from, it is ridiculous that Filipinos are forced to choose their leaders from among a handful of mediocre characters, some incompetent, some corrupt, others clearly imbued with vested interest.

Unless the responsible sectors make an effort to screen the candidates, the nation's leadership will go to the irresponsible, the incompetent and the corrupt. And that's a prescription for stuffing Malacañang and Congress with the irresponsible, the incompetent and the corrupt.

It is not acceptable that the candidates are picked by a few political bosses who think that what's good enough for them is good enough for everyone. No formalities for nominations, no conventions and no semblance of a platform on which to base the country's "choices" for public office. They sport party labels but are really just a gang of conspirators out to grab power and control of the economy. They claim to be a party but with no bona fide members, let alone membership dues or qualifications except blind loyalty. Worse, they are beholden to political entrepreneurs who invest on campaigns in hopes of big payoffs after elections.

They may wrangle among themselves over who are "official" candidates, but the issue is ultimately decided on the basis of criteria derived from the cockpit, the boxing ring, the casino, or the movie box office. In so doing, they dishonor the nation, expose it to corruption and abuse, and condemn it to mediocrity.

Meanwhile, civil society has not been very helpful. No one calls attention to the fact that these are not genuine parties but dishonest brokers for opportunists, mere election vehicles for power-greedy and predatory individuals. No one points out the harm done to society when the ambitious, with only demagoguery and money to offer, are fielded.

This is a call for concerned citizens, the civic clubs, the schools and the churches in every community to organize non-partisan debates and forums, to which every aspirant for local or national office should be invited to justify his or her ambition and worth as a public servant. Those who decline should be branded as unworthy of the public trust.

—MANUEL E. VALDEHUESA JR.,
convenor, Task Force for Good Governance,
valdeman_esq@yahoo.com

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ERC clarifies metering charges

THIS HAS REFERENCE TO JENnifer Aquino-Xavier's letter titled "Is ERC protecting consumers?" (INQUIRER, 2/2/07) and Larry Wilson's "Taxing consumers for pilfered power" (INQUIRER, 2/8/07), which raised concerns about Meralco's metering charges and "pilferage recoveries."

The Energy Regulatory Commission's policy on metering charge allows a distribution utility (DU) to recover the costs of meter equipment, meter reading and operation and maintenance of power-metering facilities. This is allowed under RA 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira).

With respect to the misgiving that the ERC allows Meralco to charge honest consumers for pilfered electricity, it must be noted that RA 7832 (Anti-Electricity Pilferage Act of 1994) allows a partial recovery of system losses. However, for this, the law prescribes a 9.5 percent cap; any excess thereon is absorbed by the DUs.

The 9.5 percent cap covers both technical and non-technical losses. Technical loss is inherent in the physical delivery of electric energy such as conductor loss, transformer core loss and potential/current coils in metering equipment. Non-technical loss, on the other hand, is caused primarily by human actions, whether intentional or not, such as pilferage, tampering of meters and erroneous meter reading and/or billing.

The DUs are required to submit to the ERC, on a monthly basis their "pilferage reports," including information on the action taken on pilferage cases and the amount recovered from those cases to be reflected in the customers' bill. The pilferage recoveries are returned to the consumers through an adjustment in the generation rates charged by the DUs. These pilferage recoveries are deducted from the total generation cost which effectively reduces the final generation rate charged to consumers.

—RODOLFO B. ALBANO JR.,
chair and chief executive officer,
Energy Regulatory Commission

About voting for 'alternatives'

CONRADO DE QUIROS IS RIGHT to keep on hammering the point that other than the clowns playing it "big" in the political arena, there are candidates that the Filipino electorate can vote for. Three of these "alternative" candidates come from the Kapatiran Party. The logic is simple: The alternative to evil is not evil. (INQUIRER, 3/1/07)

Evil can only be corrected with good as the alternative to darkness is light. The administration and the other party (I refuse to call it the opposition because it is just another face of the same coin, so to speak) both represent what is evil and dark in Philippine politics and governance.

Kapatiran represents the exact opposite of what they embody. Kapatiran is a whiff of fresh air blowing into our polluted political environment. I call on the Filipino electorate to vote for these three if only to spite our present crop of so-called political leaders.

Perhaps, there is something good we can still derive from the coming democratic exercise. So, let the media cover their every move. De Quiros should write more about them. We should have more people helping Kapatiran.

—BOBET LEUTERIO,
ladleuterio@yahoo.com

Why GMA has no love for Edsa I

I THINK THE REASON GLORIA Macapagal-Arroyo wants us to forget Edsa I is this: she was never part of that action.

Does anybody ever remember her name being mentioned at all during and after Edsa I?

She was nowhere near Edsa even during the first anniversary celebration.

—JOSELITO SANTOS,
jslto@yahoo.com

Ascetic ideologue, seductive actress

INQUIRER.NET VOICES

I WAS UTTERLY SHOCKED TO see the photos in the INQUIRER last March 3 of actress Ara Mina "hotting it up" with the ascetic ideologue Jose Maria Sison, whose writings I read while studying Asian politics in London. I also am a keen student of Asian cinema, and I am familiar with the career of Mina.

Sison should not have allowed himself to be photographed dancing with the controversial, seductive actress, because he ought to be focusing on the grave problems besetting the Filipino nation at present, namely (to quote his own words) imperialism, fascism and bureaucrat capitalism, plus the new conjugal dictatorship of the Arroyos.

As for Mina, I offer only two pieces of advice: (a) develop an interest in the social problems of the people, so she will get to know her dancing partner better; and (b) for God's sake, get a snappier push-up bra, to give a lift to her once apple-like bosom, which in the dancing photos look more like a pair of sagging papayas.

I think that both celebrities in the photo are something of a letdown.—**Nariya Walyeena, Woodlane Road, London (via e-mail)**

* * *

It is nice for Harvey Keh that he has the option of leaving the country when his choices of leaders are not elected. I feel that such a stance is not only cowardly, it is selfish. Millions of Filipinos do not have the option of protecting themselves in that way.

Keh should stop promoting migration to avoid our country's problems and instead encourage staying to do one's share to help our ailing nation.—**Abel Maglanque, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City (via e-mail)**

* * *

I was not surprised to hear that Manny Pacquiao would not pursue his political ambition over his boxing career. That's good news!

However, this also proves his incapacity to decide and stick to what he believes. It's like getting into a boxing fight in which most of the decisions and strategies come from the coach. "With your strength and my strategy, we will win." (I wonder who said that.)

I do not doubt Manny's intention to help the Filipino people. However, there are a lot of ways to do that.

A respected host of a morning show once suggested that Manny should establish a foundation instead of getting into politics. Manny tactlessly responded, *"Alangan namang galing na lang lagi sa sarili kong bulsa 'yung pantulong ko,"* or something to that effect.

Recently, Manny got a high school diploma by passing an education department exam, and now he wants to become a congressman? That's weird. Voters nowadays are more aware and informed about politics.

Everybody is asking if Manny knows something about lawmaking, or what would he say during sessions if ever he gets elected. I bet his coach does!

I am one of the people celebrating Manny's decision not to run for office. It is the most appropriate move for him to preserve his reputation and to spare his constituents from the intentions of people around him. Everybody loves Manny Pacquiao as a boxing hero, and not as a politician.—**Mark Francis Parallag, Iba, Zambales (via e-mail)**

* * *

The senatorial candidates' debate should be held in a public place, like the Quirino Grandstand in Rizal Park, or Plaza Miranda in Manila, or on Paseo de Roxas in the Makati business district near the Ninoy Aquino monument—and covered live by radio and TV. The Manila Hotel is not a good venue. The public must see all the candidates.—**Ed Reyes, Barstow, California (via e-mail)**

GMA addresses wrong women's group

From page A1

officials beside her, a puzzled Ms Arroyo kept repeating the question and each time she was rebuffed.

Ms Arroyo thought she was addressing nongovernment organizations (NGOs) which serve as conduits of the microfinance lending program. But the audience at the jampacked Ninoy Aquino Stadium in Manila turned out to be women government employees who were not beneficiaries of the lending program.

The President said she had made the hard decisions to improve the economy and that these decisions had borne fruit. She said among the fruits were the availability of funds for microfinance which NGOs and entrepreneurs, including women, could avail themselves of.

"Who among the women here have benefited from our microfinance?" Ms Arroyo asked in Filipino.

'What happened?'

When she got a loud "*Wala!*" Ms Arroyo turned to Myrna Yao, head of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, and asked: "What happened, Myrna?"

Yao approached Ms Arroyo on the podium and told her the organizers had failed to invite the NGOs.

Still clueless, the President next looked for those who were "conduits of NGOs." The audience roared "*Wala!*" Ms Arroyo turned to Yao again, and the two began talking in whispers.

"Maybe it's your first time to attend the women's day," Ms Arroyo said, and her audience roared: "*Hindi* (No)!"

Ms Arroyo tried to get out of the situation by saying her audience during last year's women's day celebration were mostly beneficiaries of microfinancing.

She said microfinance was available in 97 percent of the country and the remaining 3 percent could get help from the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Wanted NGOs

"Who among you have gotten in touch with the DSWD about this?" Ms Arroyo said, and the audience again shouted "*Wala!*"

"*Mukhang kailangan Myrna ay makasama natin itong mga NGO na inimbita mo dito. Ano, Myrna* (Maybe the NGOs that you invited should be here with us)?" the President said.

When somebody in the audience raised her hand, Ms Arroyo gladly called her on stage.

She turned out to be Social Welfare Undersecretary Alice Bala, who tried to rescue the President by talking about the efforts of the DSWD to help people in the poor areas around the country.

When the discourse turned to the role of the Local Councils of Women, the President found out from the audience that they had not heard of the group either.

Yao tried to convince the President that many in the audience knew about the Local Councils of Women but Ms Arroyo asked for a second showing of hands.

"They do not know about the local councils of women," she told Yao.

Wrong program, audience

It was at this point that Yao made it clear to the President that she was talking to the wrong audience.

"Oh, many of you here are government employees?" Ms Arroyo said. That's the only time she got a "Yes!" from the audience.

The President then said she thought the government cooperatives could avail themselves of microfinancing and the government employees roared "No." She looked for the Cooperative Foundation of the Philippines official but the official said it did not cater to the government multipurpose co-ops.

"Didn't you get a P1,000 allowance?" she asked. The audience still answered in the negative. "You didn't get a P1,000 allowance last year? Where is the DBM (Department of Budget and Management)?" Ms Arroyo asked.

The President promised to lobby the incoming Congress to pass a law to increase government salaries, and more.

"(In) 2008 we should have microfinance for government workers so that the next time I ask you about microfinance, many will answer yes," Ms Arroyo said.

IN THE KNOW

The 'Mamburao 6'

BROTHERS MICHAEL AND PAUL QUINTOS were attending a friend's birthday party on Dec. 13, 1997 in Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro, when a group of men disrupted the celebration and shot them dead.

The brothers' father, former Constitutional Convention delegate Ricardo Quintos, immediately accused then Occidental Mindoro Rep. Jose Villarosa, husband of current Rep. Amelita Villarosa, of masterminding the killings, which he described as politically motivated.

Villarosa denied this, saying Quintos was not a threat to his political career. (Quintos lost to Villarosa in the congressional elections in 1992 and 1995.)

On Dec. 22, 1997, a murder complaint was filed before a Mamburao court and farmer Eduardo Hermoso was arrested.

Hermoso said in a statement that he had served as a lookout, and that Villarosa was behind the murders that supposedly involved seven gunmen, nine lookouts and the congressman's driver and police escort.

According to Hermoso, the original plan was to kill Ricardo and Michael.

Arrest warrants were later issued against those named.

Villarosa surrendered to authorities on Jan. 7, 1998, and was taken to Camp Crame as a maximum-security prisoner.

Torture

But during a hearing at the House of Representatives on Jan. 29, Hermoso said he had been detained in the Quintos residence and tortured into signing a prepared statement.

He also claimed to have seen agents of the National Bureau of Investigation arrest and beat up alleged gunman Balbin Fernandez on Dec. 23, 1997.

On Dec. 24, the agents reportedly brought a dead Fernandez to a community hospital, where cardiac arrest was declared as the cause of death.

Two other persons arrested—Ruben Balaguer and Gelito Bautista—also claimed to have been tortured.

In February 1998, the Supreme Court acted on the complainants' motion and transferred the double-murder case from Mamburao to the Quezon City Regional Trial Court.

In March, Villarosa, Hermoso, Bautista and Balaguer entered a plea of not guilty.

On April 28, Judge Monina Zeñarosa (Branch 76) granted bail of P400,000 each to Villarosa, Bautista and Balaguer although murder is a non-bailable offense.

Inhibition

Villarosa posted bail and was released on the same day after 111 days of detention.

In September, following a motion from the prosecution, Zeñarosa inhibited herself from the case. It was reraffled to two branches, the judges of which also inhibited themselves.

The case landed in Judge Theresa Yadao's sala (Branch 81).

By this time, three more suspects—Manolito Matricio, Jose Ungsod and Mario Tobias—had been arrested. They, too, entered a plea of not guilty.

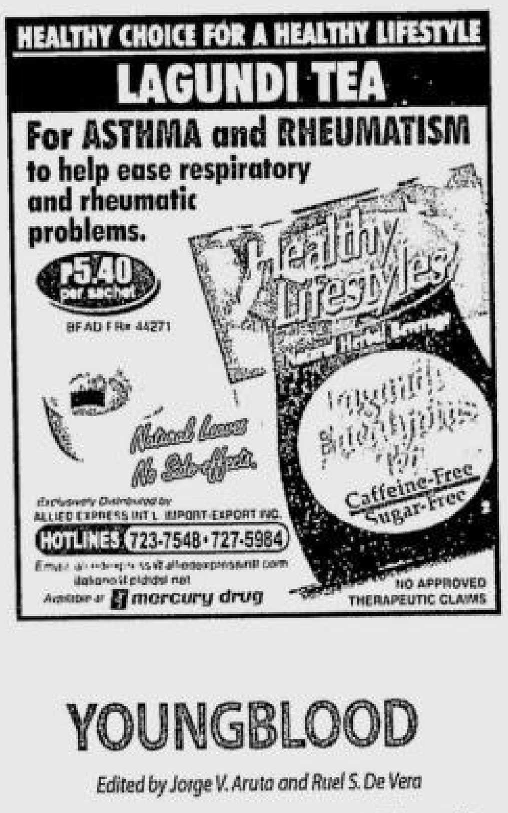
Hermoso, Balaguer, Bautista, Matricio, Ungsod and Tobias became known as the "Mamburao 6."

Among the suspects still at large, one—Leonardo de la Cruz—was killed in an alleged shootout with police on April 5, 1999.

In 2001, Villarosa defeated Quintos in the gubernatorial race in Occidental Mindoro.

On March 1, 2006, Yadao sentenced Villarosa and the Mamburao 6 to death.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research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Solgen seeks acquittal of Villarosa

From page A1

The current solicitor general is Agnes Devanadera.

"It is respectfully recommended that appellants Gelito Bautista, Ruben Balaguer, Mario Tobias and Jose T. Villarosa be acquitted, their guilt having not been proved beyond reasonable doubt," the OSG said.

According to the OSG, Eduardo Hermoso's confession that implicated Villarosa and the other accused in a conspiracy to kill brothers Paul and Michael Quintos could not be used as evidence because it was not voluntarily given and was made in the absence of Hermoso's lawyer. ***(See The 'Mamburao 6' on this page.)***

VILLAROSA: Convicted of double murders

Hermoso had confessed to being the gunman in the killing and said he was present at a meeting where Villarosa purportedly discussed the killing of Michael Quintos.

But he later repudiated the confession in court, saying he was tortured into making it.

Hermoso is part of the so-called "Mamburao 6," a group of farmers who, along with Villarosa, were convicted of the murder of the Quintos brothers on Dec. 13, 1997. They were sentenced to death.

Detestable but...

The brothers were the sons of Ricardo Quintos, a delegate to the 1970 Constitutional Convention.

"What happened to Paul and Michael Quintos is detestable and should be condemned," the OSG said.

"But doubts abound on the complicity of the appellants in their deaths. The exacting standard for conviction is proof beyond reasonable doubt. It is unfortunate that the prosecution failed to meet this standard. Thus, by recommending the acquittal of appellants Balaguer, Bautista, Tobias and Villarosa, the solicitor general does not suggest that they are innocent," it said.

The OSG also said in its prefatory statement that it was its duty to make sure that only the guilty would be punished.

"Deaths caused by needless violence are always tragic. While it becomes the state's solemn responsibility to prosecute and vindicate the wrong that has been done, it must, however, ensure that only those whose guilt has been proved with moral certainty be punished," it said.

All cases on appeal are forwarded to the OSG for comment, and it is part of the OSG mandate to comment on these cases, according to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

He said the OSG was not obliged to accept the decision of the regional trial court.

Extrajudicial confession

In discrediting the use of Hermoso's confession, the OSG said his confession was extrajudicial and needed to be confirmed in court.

As it turned out, Hermoso not only did not confirm it in court but also repudiated it by denying knowledge of the crime and claiming he was forced to confess.

"The extrajudicial confession, thus, did not become a judicial admission, which would have been admissible against all those implicated," the OSG said.

It also said the extrajudicial confession was made long after the alleged conspiracy had ended. Also, it said, none of the circumstantial evidence presented had pointed to a conspiracy.

According to the OSG, Hermoso's statement to the National Bureau of Investigation was a product of three days of "coercive and uncounseled custodial investigation."

It said that Hermoso was conditioned to point to Villarosa as the architect of the murders, and that Hermoso even saw how Balbin Fernandez, one of the accused, died in the hands of the NBI. The OSG said Hermoso became afraid that he would meet the same fate if he would not cooperate: "It is not difficult to conclude that when Hermosó was brought to the NBI office on Dec. 26, 1997, for the signing of his [confession], he was painfully aware of what would happen to him if he refused."

Other evidence needed

Because Hermoso's statement is inadmissible, other evidence of the purported conspiracy must be given, the OSG said.

"While the prosecution relied heavily on Hermoso's confession, it simply presented what could be appellate Villarosa's motives in masterminding the murders. But for these to be appreciated, the fact of conspiracy, like the guilt itself for the crime charged, must be proved beyond reasonable doubt," it said.

The OSG said the prosecution presented no witnesses to testify on the supposed meeting where the killing of the Quintoses was planned.

It said the testimonies against the suspects only pointed to them claiming involvement in the crime, but did not show that they attended the meeting.

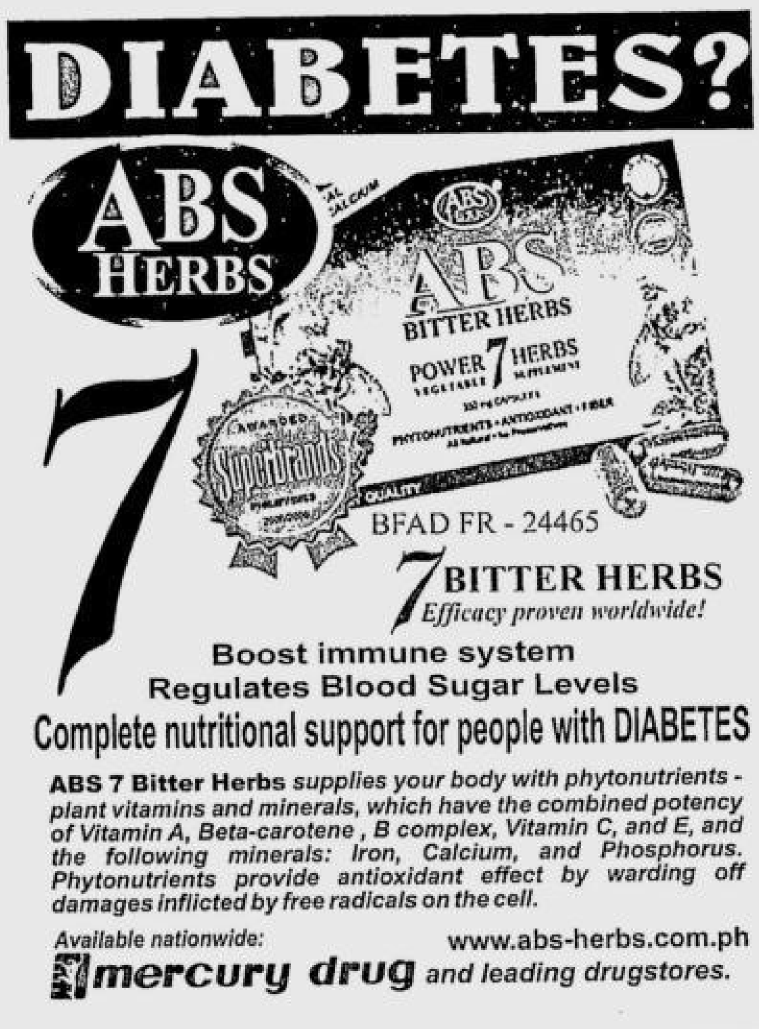
"No evidence was presented to show that, indeed, they came to an agreement concerning the commission of the crime. Neither was there any narration nor description of their acts before, during and after the commission of the crime tending to show their singleness of purpose. The prosecution witnesses did not even confirm their presence in the *locus criminis* (scene of the crime)," the OSG said.

In Manila

Villarosa had contested the allegation of conspiracy, pointing to Hermoso's repudiation of his confession.

The former lawmaker also presented evidence to show that at the time of the alleged meeting to discuss the murders, he was in Manila meeting with government officials.

On that day, he said, he defended a bill on the fisheries code.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COA joins probe of costly lampposts

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT IN Central Visayas has started its own investigation of allegations that the decorative lampposts installed in the cities of Cebu, Mandaue and Lapulapu for the Association of Southeast Asian (Asean) summit were overpriced.

Alfredo Torrequemada, audit team leader of assigned to the regional office Department of Public Works and Highways, said he asked for the help of the regional technical service of COA to get an evaluation of the lampposts installed in the three cities.

Torrequemada said the result of the technical evaluation would serve as a basis of the final audit report to be submitted to regional cluster director Merenisa Codera.

But Torrequemada said people should not yet conclude that the lampposts were overpriced. "We cannot say that until and unless we have a basis of comparison," Torrequemada said.

Torrequemada said they were looking at the lamppost project in Naga town, 22 km south of Cebu City, that bought street lamps similar to the ones installed in Mandaue City.

Naga Mayor Val Chiong yesterday said the lampposts installed in his town's plaza last December only cost P16,000 each. He said the lampposts were ordered in Manila and the price per unit already included the shipping cost.

Earlier, the whistle-blower in the DPWH street lighting project, Crisologo Saavedra, said his own inquiry from suppliers showed that the unit cost for each lamppost was only P11,000 or P33,000 with shipping and installation.

Marlina Alviso, public works regional director, revealed on Monday at a hearing called by the Visayas Ombudsman that the lampposts installed in Mandaue cost P224,000 each. Those installed in Cebu City cost P85,000 each, she said, not P95,000 as earlier reported.

ASEAN and Cebu officials take pride in the province's hosting of the Asean summit last January. Bad weather moved the summit schedule from December last year.
REM ZAMORA

The DPWH has allocated P120 million for the street lighting project but only 15 percent has so far been paid to the suppliers.

Visayas Ombudsman director Virginia Palanca Santiago has directed the DPWH to hold the payment for the lampposts pending investigation.

Torrequemada said a team would inspect the Naga lampposts to determine if these were of the same quality as the lampposts installed in the three Metro Cebu cities.

He said the investigation actually started late last year after the lampposts were purchased because it was COA's job to do so.

Allan Gajudo, COA regional technical service chief, said his team was in Naga town last week to get the documents and specifications of the town's lampposts.

Gajudo said his team would inspect and make an actual count of all the lampposts installed in the three cities.

The regional DPWH had said that the 12th Asean summit street lighting project undertaken last December involved the installation of 1,800 lampposts, 124 of which were installed in Mandaue City. The lampposts were installed in the so-called "ceremonial routes"—the streets traversed by summit delegates and heads of states from their hotels to the conference venues.

Regional DPWH officials defended the costs, saying the lampposts had unique designs.

Bringing health services to poor's doorsteps

By Anselmo Roque
Inquirer Central Luzon

SAN JOSE CITY—IN BARANGAY Sinipit Bubon, 6 km from the town proper here, villagers were queuing to seek the services of medical and dental doctors posted in various school rooms.

Some were going to the mobile clinic either for X-ray, ECG or other forms of laboratory tests.

Others were getting ready for minor surgery.

In a corner of one of the rooms, Vice Gov. Mariano Cristino Joson was signing a voucher presented by a woman asking assistance for her chemotherapy session in a hospital.

"We are on the second day of our week-long round of the different barangays in this city," Joson said.

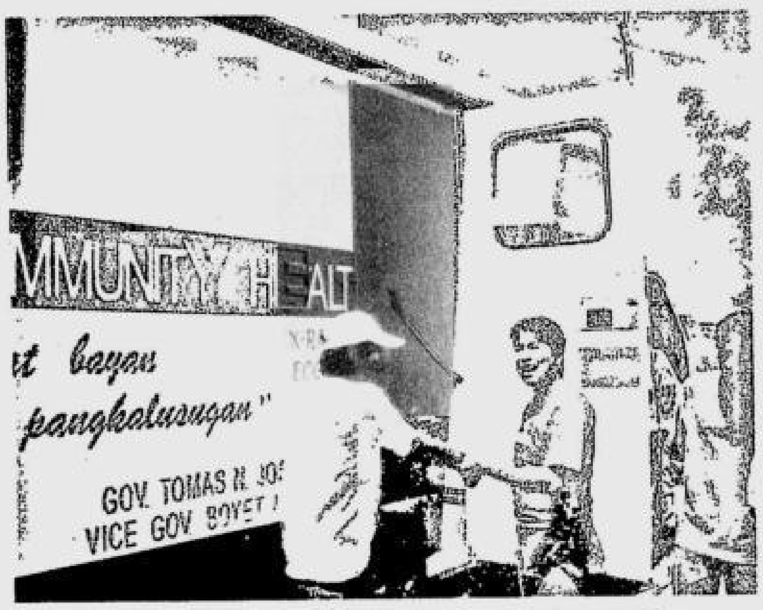
He said the services of the provincial mobile health clinic, which he personally supervises, are ending the third round of visits to the 27 towns and five cities of Nueva Ecija.

On Monday, it will start another round of mobile medical-dental health services in Rizal town.

It was in that town where Joson started in September 2005 the daily medical-dental services to the people right almost in their doorsteps.

"The health of the people is paramount," the vice governor said. "It is not only wealth but it means life itself."

But since many of the residents cannot go or are postponing an appointment with doctors, mostly because of lack of money, "we decided to go to them," he said.



NUEVA ECIJA Vice Gov. Mariano Cristino Joson helps a resident get inside a mobile clinic that has been delivering medical services to the province's poor.
ANSELMO ROQUE/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

"It's not just an occasional health mission wherein free medicine is distributed. We are doing diagnostic examination here. We give them the medicine they need even for long treatment and we do the follow-up. Those needing hospitalization are sent to the provincial hospital."

No politics

Earlier, doctors from the Philippine College of Physicians expressed concern about the "political medical missions," calling these as "being done from the hip" which, they said, could be dangerous.

But Joson said: "There are no speeches. *Trabaho agad.* Anybody may come. There should be no politics involved when it comes to the health of the people."

He said the missions were not for show. He said he made sure that these were supported by a mobile clinic for various forms of diagnostic tests.

His team, he said, is composed of 40 medical and dental doctors, optometrists, nurses, technicians and nutritionists. Volunteer nursing students also join the group to lend assistance.

Veterinarians are also included in the team for anti-rabies vaccination for dogs.

Another mobile clinic is now being built to double the capacity in reaching those needing health care in the province, Joson said.

The mobile clinic is worth at least P4 million, it was learned.

Joson, 54, said the program for looking after the health welfare of Nueva Ecija residents should not stop in just providing the daily medical-dental missions.

First rate hospital

His dream is to build a 200-bed capacity, state-of-the-art provincial hospital.

"They should get the best medical attention right in our province and not in faraway Metro Manila," Joson said. "And if possible, they should not be paying for the services. Or if they can afford to pay, these services should be subsidized."

He said other programs may go to naught if the people who are the intended beneficiaries suffer from health problems. "If they are healthy, then the province will be healthy, too," he said.

He said he was initiating these services "not to gain any political mileage." He said he has told his party mates at the Bagong Lakas ng Nueva Ecija (Balane) that he was ready to give way to anybody who wants to run for governor to succeed his brother, Gov. Tomas Joson III.

Balane has elected him to be the party chair and has endorsed him to be its standard bearer in the May 14 elections.

"Nobody complained. That's why I will be the candidate for governor these coming elections," Joson said.

He added: "They were saying it is a fight between the good and the bad and they want to picture us as the 'bad.' If we are bad, how come our people have been electing a Joson for governor for the last 50 years?"

100 C. Luzon farmers give good start to ethanol production

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Some 100 farmers in Tarlac, Nueva Ecija and Pampanga gave a good start to a pioneering ethanol-making project in Central Luzon by leasing their lands to the Pampanga Industrial Park Corp. (PIPC) and the United States-based E-Cane Fuel Corp. (ECFC).

Farmers like Tranquilina Mallare of Barangay San Jose in San Antonio, Nueva Ecija, and Florentino Pascual of Barangay Lilibangan in Concepcion, Tarlac, received the initial lease payments on Wednesday at the PIPC office here.

The PIPC also gave them Phil-Health insurance, which is among the benefits committed by the project's corporate social responsibility program.

Jean-Pierre Monclin, ECFC chair, said the lease agreement covers 25 years and assures them of yearly increase in land rent.

Monclin called the farmers "partners" during the brief program here. They contributed the first 200 hectares to the initial 4,000-hectare proposed target area.

The leased lands used to be idle or partly cultivated after Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions in 1991 and the subsequent lahar flows.

The lands will be planted to cane as feedstock for ethanol. ECFC will introduce the technology in the manufacture of the bio-fuel.

Monclin said the project supports the thrust of the government to develop alternative and clean fuel. This came after President Macapagal-Arroyo signed in January this year Republic Act No. 9367 or the Bio-fuels Act of 2006.

The government earlier committed to start an alternative fuel program by signing the Declaration on East Asian Energy Security during the 12th summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Cebu.

The law sought to "reduce dependence on imported fuels with due regard to the protection of public health, the environmental and natural ecosystems consistent with the country's sustainable economic growth that would expand opportunities for livelihood by mandating the use of bio-fuels."

The ECFC's technology, according to Monclin, is "environmentally sound and compliant" with the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts of the Philippines. It also complies with the requirements of the Kyoto Protocol, an international accord on the reduction of harmful gases.

The project, he said, places a high regard for the food security thrust of the government by tapping unproductive or less productive farms.

"We will not compete with the sugar industry but provide an additional supportive industry that can boost growth in the region," Monclin told the INQUIRER.

At the same time, he said the PIPC and ECFC will undertake a strong corporate social responsibility program by providing employment, farm improvement, standby credit during calamities, health and education assistance and sale of the plant's excess electricity from bagasse.

Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

Ex-S. Leyte mayor, 2 others draw prison terms for graft

By Jocelyn R. Uy

FOR PURCHASING LESS THAN P20,000-worth of coco lumber without bidding nine years ago, three former officials of Anahawan, Southern Leyte will end up serving time in jail for eight to 20 years.

The Sandiganbayan Fourth Division has found former Mayor Antonio de Jesus Sr., vice mayor Anatolio Ang and municipal treasurer Martina Apigo guilty of graft and falsification of documents for faking the canvassing of coco lumber supposedly intended for the repair of the municipal building damaged by a typhoon in 1998.

The antigraft court also imposed on them perpetual disqualification from public office and a fine of P5,000 each.

Court records showed that the former municipal officials made it appear on the "Requests for Quotation" and "Abstract of Proposal of Canvass" that three coco lumber shops—Hinduyan Lumber, Anahawan Coco Lumber and Cuad Lumber—participated in the bidding.

The documents, which bore the signatures of the officials, showed that Anahawan Coco Lumber, whose owner is the mayor's son, Antonio de Jesus Jr., won the bidding by offering P16,767 for roughly 3,000 pieces of wood.

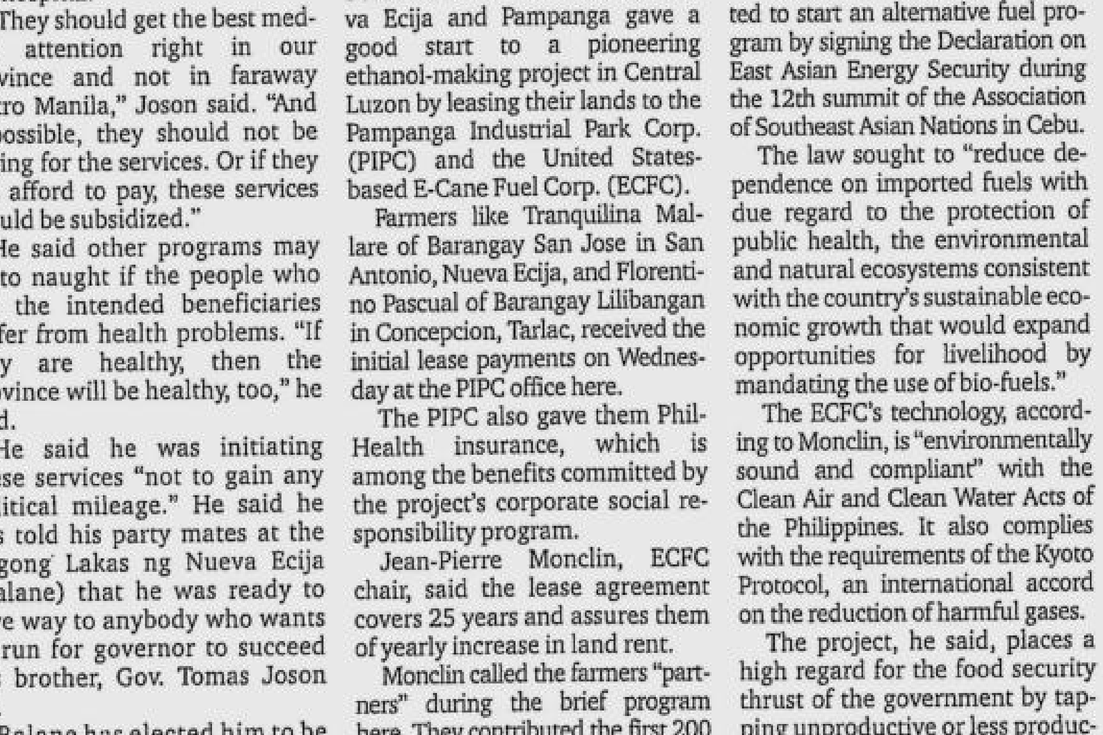
The papers noted that Hinduyan quoted P17,698 for the same number of lumber while Cuad was allegedly not interested. But during the trial, owners of the two lumber shops said they were not aware of the bidding.

The defense argued in court that there was no falsification because they disclosed the truth about the purpose of the purchase and that they affixed their signatures on the documents for the same reason.

"The accused may not have lied about the purpose of the purchase, but that is not the real issue ... Their disrespect for the proper procedure in the accomplishment of their public duties should not be tolerated," said Associate Justice Gregory Ong in his 37-page decision.

The court also said that it was apparent that the three officials gave "unwarranted advantage, benefit and preference" to the lumber shop owned by De Jesus's son.

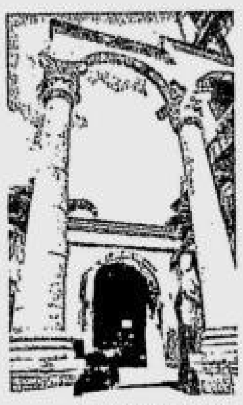
The officials immediately posted bail of P80,000 each on Wednesday save for Ang, who spent the night at the detention cell at the sheriff's office. He was only able to post bail yesterday.



EXPANSION
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Dubbed as the next SM Mall of Asia in Bacolod, the latest SM City is opened by SM and Bacolod City officials and leaders. The latest addition to the SM chain of malls has a 60,000 square meter area and has a view of Guimaras Strait. It was opened by Hans Sy, SM Prime Holdings president; Renecito Novero, Bacolod vice mayor; Joseph Marañon, Negros Occidental governor; Monico Fuentebella, congressman; Henry Sy, SM founder and chair; Bing Leonardia, Bacolod City mayor; and Bishop Vicente Navarra.

Diggings point to treasure hunting at Cebu cathedral

By J. Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas



TONEE DESPOJO/CDN

THE ADORATION Chapel of the Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral.

CEBU CITY—TREASURE hunters were believed behind diggings inside a prayer room of the Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral in Barangay Sto. Niño here.

Pancho Ramirez, village chair, said those behind the diggings could be looking for samurais and gold bars supposedly buried by a Japanese soldier in the church grounds during World War II.

Ramirez recalled that sometime in the late 1990s, a Japanese national, who claimed to be the son of the Japanese soldier, wanted to dig at a portion beside the tower of the cathedral but he was not given permission by church officials.

Msgr. Cayetano Gelbolingo, the cathedral's parish priest, said he did not know about the diggings until he was alerted by the church's security guards about the suspicious activities of workers supposedly putting new tiles at the adoration chapel, which is beside the bell tower of the cathedral.

Gelbolingo said he discovered a manhole about seven to 10 feet deep at the adoration chapel. It appeared that the workers that were supposed to install new tiles had instead been digging the hole since Monday until it was uncovered and stopped at noon of Tuesday.

Gelbolingo said the adoration church was renovated about two months ago and he delegated his assistant, Fr. Teogenes Herrera, to oversee the work. The renovation included the construction of a new tabernacle, roof, and ceiling and the installation of an air-conditioning system. Last week, Gelbolingo said Herrera informed him that there was a donor who wanted to pay for the retiling of the chapel.

A retired priest, Fr. Dominador Dosdos, provided the workers, according to Gelbolingo.

He said he had talked to Herrera but the priest denied knowledge of the diggings.

Gelbolingo said the security guards got suspicious because of the strange sound coming from inside the chapel while the workers worked behind a locked door.

Gelbolingo said he discovered the hole when he inspected the chapel at noon Tuesday. He said he immediately ordered the workers to stop what they were doing.

Gelbolingo said he returned to his office to inform Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal by phone about the diggings and when he returned to the chapel, the workers were gone.

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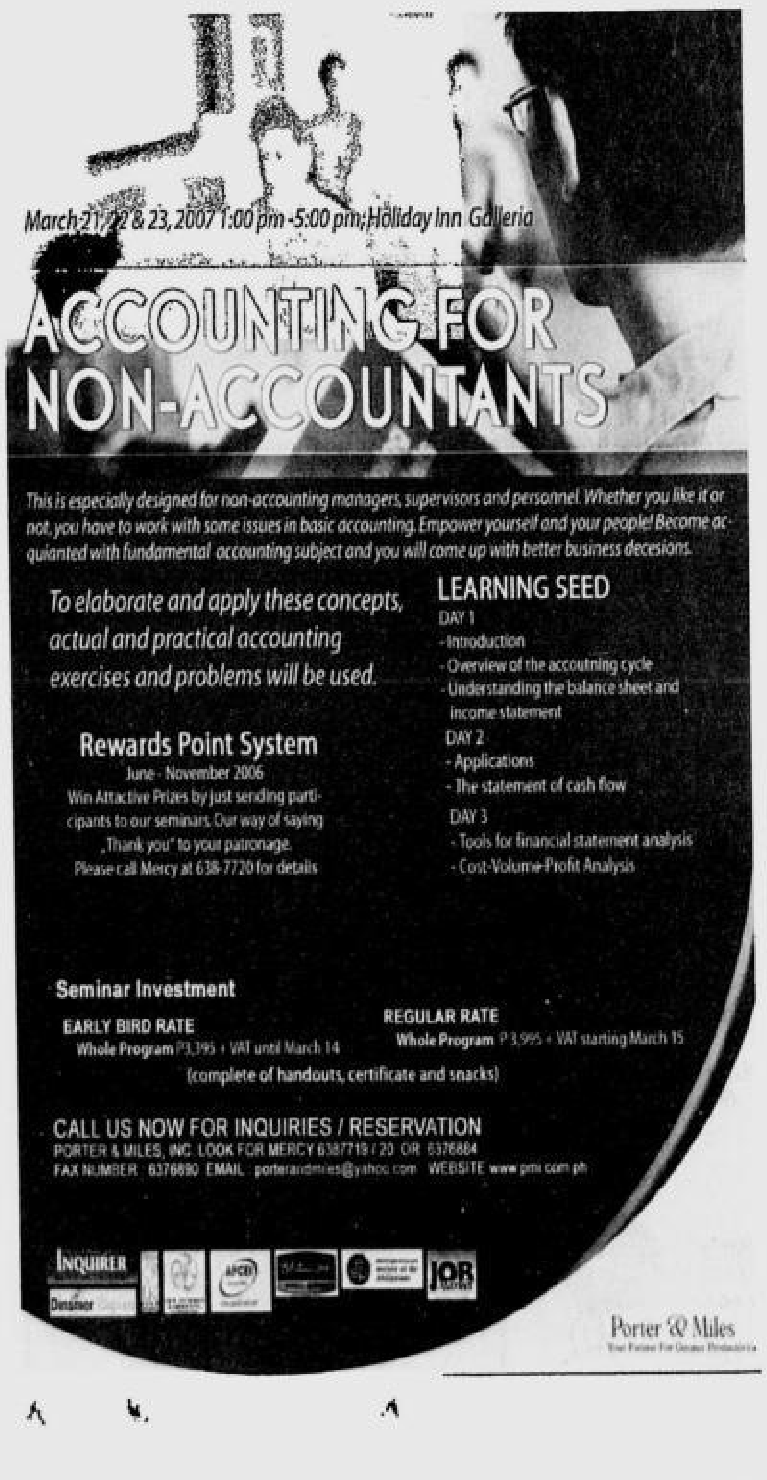
(PDI – March 8 & 9, 2007)



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References: 1 Department of Health. Health Statistics. Ten Leading Causes of Mortality by Sex, Number, Rate/100,000 Population and Percentage, Philippines 2003. Available at: www.doh.gov.ph. Accessed 29 January 2007.
2 Laudico, AV, et al. 2005 Philippine Cancer Facts and Estimates. Philippine Cancer Society, Inc. 2004.

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Soldiers change into 'friendlier' attire

By Christine O. Avendaño

SO AS NOT TO APPEAR "MEAN-looking," the military officers and soldiers deployed in 26 Metro Manila barangays have dropped their full-battle gear for a much friendlier look.

Instead of camouflage uniforms, the soldiers are now wearing their standard green uniforms or general office attire and have exchanged their long arms for pistols that they can keep "concealed," Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, Armed Forces of the Philippines National Capital Region Command (NCRComm) chief, said yesterday.

"This is one of the modifications so that the people won't be scared when the soldiers go patrolling in the streets," Dolorfino said.

"We don't want them to be mean-looking," he added.

The NCRComm had ordered the change in uniform two days ago, AFP information chief Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said.

To further soften the image of the soldiers that militant party-list groups have claimed were in the barangays to campaign against them in the May elections, Bacarro said the soldiers would begin conducting dental and medical missions and do limited engineering works next week.

Defense Undersecretary Ernesto Carolina said that whatever the soldiers were wearing would do as long as they were in uniform and could be easily identified as members of the military.

He also dismissed calls for the AFP to remove the troops.

"We don't see any reason for us to pull out the troops because the soldiers are doing good work," he said.

Cagayan de Oro RTC wants lone Pasig drug witness by March 15

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE LONE POLICE WITNESS AGAINST THE alleged owner of a compound of shabu stalls in Pasig City—the largest drug market so far uncovered in the country—is finding himself in the middle of a tug-of-war between law enforcers and the courts.

Samer Palao is still to complete his testimony against alleged drug den operator Amin Imam Boratong before the Pasig City Regional Trial Court Branch 154.

Palao claims he served as the right-hand man of Boratong in operating the shabu stalls engaged in the biggest direct selling of prohibited drugs in Barangay Sto. Tomas which police raided in February 2006.

Saying he was not feeling well, Palao failed to continue his testimony yesterday at the Pasig RTC Branch 154 and requested postponement.

The Misamis Oriental Regional Trial Court Branch 21 has ordered Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Calderon to bring Palao to Cagayan de Oro for his arraignment next week. The family of Boratong's wife, Memie, filed charges against Palao in Misamis Oriental in June 2006 for allegedly kidnapping and killing her brother.

To show it is serious, the Misamis court has fined two police officials, who used to secure Palao, P30,000 each after they failed to bring Palao to Cagayan de Oro on Feb. 28 for his arraignment.

Palao fears for his life

Palao will be "in danger" the moment he is brought to Cagayan de Oro City, said Senior Insp. Rique Merdegeia, the legal officer of the PNP Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force. Merdegeia cited information reaching the task force.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez has ordered Palao out of the Witness Protection Program. He also has ordered a reinvestigation of the case against Boratong, saying evidence against the alleged million-peso drug den operator appeared to be weak.

Gonzalez instead ordered that Palao also be investigated.

Palao is also a witness in other cases filed against Boratong, his wife Memie and several policemen, who had allegedly served as protectors of the shabu stalls in Pasig City.

But the Misamis RTC said it had not received any certification from the Department of Justice identifying Palao as a government witness.

Palao believes there is a plan to kill him following his testimony against Boratong.

Asked for comment, Boratong's lawyer Raymund Fortun said these fears were "highly speculative."

Fortun said Palao only offered himself voluntarily to the police as a witness a day after the arrest warrant against him was released by the Misamis RTC on July 13.

In earlier interviews, Boratong claimed Palao, who he said was his biological brother, was the one who operated the drug den.

Palao denied they were brothers.

Battle of custodians

Tension gripped the Pasig City Justice Hall when a process server of the Misamis court, assisted by National Bureau of Investigation operatives, who were also securing Boratong, tried to serve the arrest warrant against Palao after his testimony two weeks ago.

But policemen from the Pasig City Police and the PNP Custodial Center managed to hastily escort Palao outside the building.

The process server had wanted to serve the arrest warrant in time for Palao's scheduled arraignment at the Misamis RTC on Feb. 28. But his police escorts apparently had wanted him to continue his testimony against Boratong on March 1.

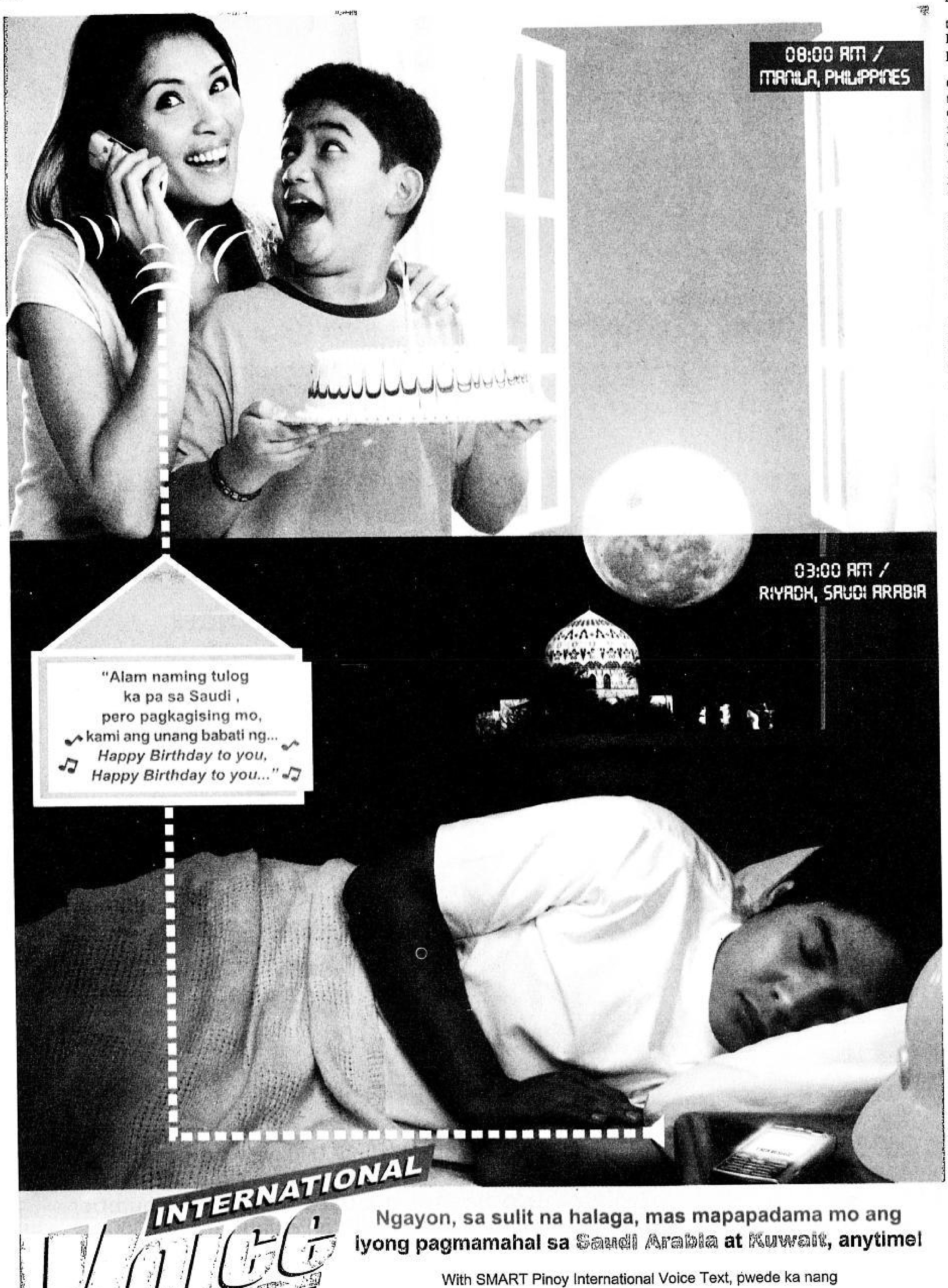
Trapped in between, Palao did not show up at the hearing last week.

Misamis court actions

The Misamis RTC has already issued a subpoena ordering Calderon to bring Palao to Cagayan de Oro City on March 13 for the arraignment scheduled for March 15.

The RTC said the police would not have to think about transportation expenses because the private complainant—Boratong's in-laws—had promised to shoulder the costs.

The Misamis trial court also fined the Pasig police investigation chief, Senior Insp. Lorenzo Trajano, and AIDSOTF officer Insp. Reynaldo Ramos for failing to bring Palao to the court on Feb. 28.



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SC affirms hotel workers' dismissal

Strikers failed to comply with NLRC deadline

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME COURT AFFIRMED THE DISmissal of 138 Manila Hotel employees who continued their "illegal strike" in 2000 despite a return-to-work order from the National Labor and Relations Commission.

In affirming the Court of Appeals decision, the high tribunal said the employees failed to comply with the 24-hour deadline set by the NLRC to return to work, leading to their dismissal.

"The MHEA members seek their reinstatement after participating in an illegal strike, that is, a strike that was conducted after receiving an Order of Assumption by the SOLE (secretary of labor end employment) certifying the dispute to the NLRC for compulsory arbitration. Worse still, the strikers failed to comply with the 11 February 2000 return-to-work order issued by the NLRC, despite receipt thereof. The law explicitly prohibits such acts," the high court said.

In its decision, the court said workers could not ignore return-to-work orders as that would be an illegal act and a valid ground for dismissal.

"Returning to work in this situation is not a matter of option or voluntariness but of obligation. The worker must return to his job together with his coworkers so the operations of the company can be resumed and it can continue serving the public and promoting its interest," it said.

The court also said there was no illegal lockout to prevent the workers from returning to work. It pointed out that six employees complied with the order.

"In the present case, nothing in the records shows that Manila Hotel was guilty of an illegal lockout. It readmitted the six (6) employees who complied with the return-to-work order. MHEA made a vague reference to striking employees who complied with the return-to-work order, but were nevertheless refused readmittance by Manila Hotel. However, they failed to even identify these employees," the court added.

The MHEA filed a notice of strike on Nov. 11, 1999, charging the hotel with unfair labor practices.

The Department of Labor and Employment issued an order prohibiting any strike. The MHEA filed a motion for reconsideration but before it could be acted on, it went on strike.

The hotel then sought to declare the strike illegal. It said the MHEA members blocked the entrances and exits of the hotel and harassed company officers, nonstriking employees and customers.

The labor secretary assumed jurisdiction over the dispute, saying it was necessary because the Manila Hotel catered to mostly foreign tourist groups and businessmen, and also served as a venue for local and international conventions and conferences.

The hotel also contributes to the government coffers in the form of foreign exchange earnings and tax payments.

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Manor owners ask court's permission for overseas trip

By Jocelyn R. Uy

OWNERS OF THE MANOR HOTEL, WHO are facing graft and criminal charges at the Sandiganbayan, have asked the antigraft court to be allowed to travel abroad.

In a two-page motion, businessman William Genato and his wife Rebecca asked the Fifth Division of the Sandiganbayan to be allowed to go Hong Kong with their children and grandchildren from April 5-10.

Exhausted

"We are too exhausted and stressed attending not only to our business but also because of hearings in the trial courts and the Sandiganbayan in connection with the Manor Hotel tragedy," the couple stated in their pleading.

The Genatos are facing charges in connection with the death of 74 persons following a dawn fire, one of the worst in the country, on Aug. 18, 2001 at their hotel in Quezon City.

Charges

The Genatos were named as co-conspirators in the six counts of graft charges filed in the Sandiganbayan against then city engineer Alfredo Macapugay and 15 other city officials and employees who allegedly deliberately dispensed with the annual inspection of the hotel, giving unwarranted benefit and advantage to the Genatos.

Saying he would like to get away with his family from problems at home, Genato, in the pleading, said he would post a bond and abide by all conditions set by the antigraft court if allowed to travel abroad. His wife has an existing travel bond in the court.

Pandacan barangay to stand firm on oil depot closure

By Allison W. Lopez

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

Pandacan's Barangay 836 Zone 91 Chair Domingo Siposo said they would not yield to any "pressure" the oil companies may put on them once the ordinance closing the controversial oil depot in their midst is implemented.

The Supreme Court's first division decided the other day that Ordinance No. 8027 reclassifying the Pandacan and Sta. Ana areas from "industrial" to "commercial" be enforced immediately by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Siposo said he welcomed the decision since it was long overdue. He claimed that in 2002, representatives from the oil companies concerned—Petron (Chevron), Shell and Caltex—approached leaders of the 39 barangays affected by the depot's operations and promised them livelihood programs, health checkups, emergency equipment and scholarships. Because of this, he said, barangay chairs signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with them.

He said that as far as he knew, only the scholarships were granted. He said about 100 scholarships were given to Grade 1-4 students, but the jobs were scarce, and there were no annual medical checks or fire trucks.

"Only a small percentage worked at the depot. The jobs they gave us were contractual ones as welders or janitors," Siposo said in Filipino.

Lawyer Vladimir Cabigao, in an earlier interview, mentioned that the oil companies had tried to woo residents and made them sign an MOA. Barangay 836, said Siposo, has 5,000 residents and is located at Jesus Extension in Pandacan. He said four other barangays are directly affected by the depot: Brgys. 830, 833, 834 and 835.

Siposo believes the move to turn the depot into a commercial area will be good for them. "They can put up a mall, and we will have more jobs. It's also safer for us," he said.

Atienza, on the other hand, welcomed the SC ruling, saying it validated the city government's position. At the same time, he ordered City Legal Officer Melchor Monsod not to file any motion for reconsideration to enable city hall to implement the ruling.

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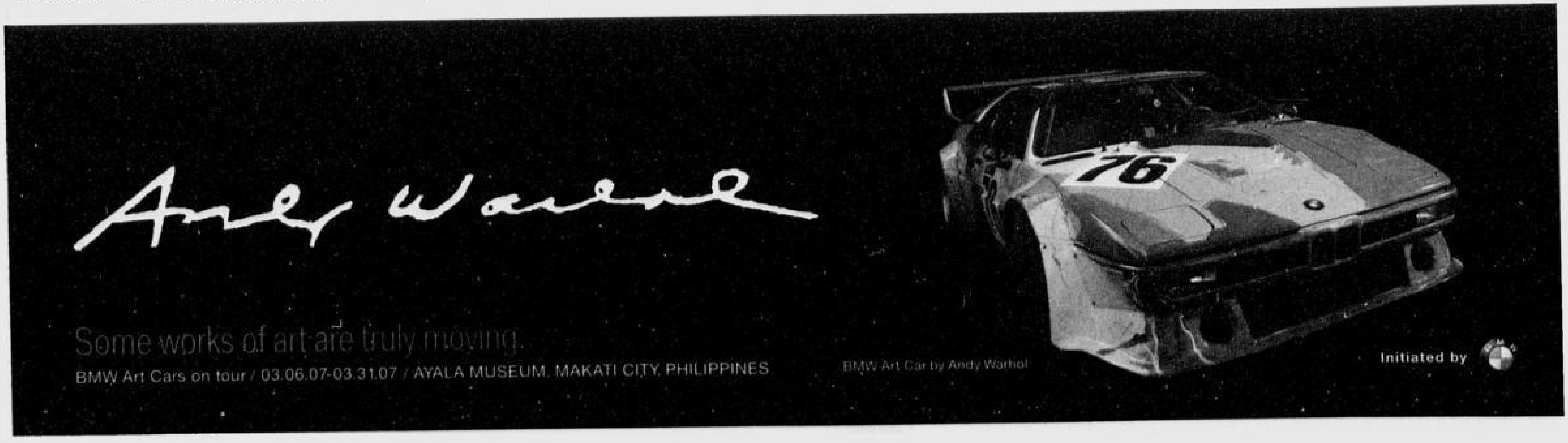

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Calixto enters—then leaves—Pasay City Hall

By Julie M. Aurelio

DISMISSED PASAY CITY VICE Mayor Antonino Calixto succeeded yesterday afternoon in his third attempt to enter City Hall, but the victory was short-lived.

Some two and a half hours after Calixto and his supporters managed to enter through the front door, he left his old office upon receipt of a memorandum ordering him to vacate the premises.

"We wouldn't leave the City Hall if we were not ordered by (Southern Police District Director Roberto) Rosales and (Pasay chief of police Sr. Supt. Marietto) Valerio to leave," a sweating Calixto told reporters outside the building.

Rosales, in a memorandum, instructed Valerio to negotiate with Calixto.

The Pasay police chief told the INQUIRER he went to the vice mayor's office and presented the memorandum to Calixto.

City Administrator Santiago Quial also gave handwritten instructions authorizing Valerio to "bodily remove" the former vice mayor and "use force if necessary."

Calixto left at around 4:30 p.m., claiming Valerio and deputy chief of police Col. Carlos Desagon were rude to him and even shouted at him.

Valerio, Vice Mayor Arvin Tolentino and Mayor Alan Panaligan denied Calixto's allegations.

In a press conference later in the day, Panaligan praised Valerio and Desagon for conducting themselves "in a gentlemanly manner" and for convincing Calixto to vacate the premises.

Reporters were allowed inside City Hall only after Calixto left.

Phil Ramos, one of Calixto's lawyers, said his client suddenly appeared at City Hall at around 2 p.m. Surprised, the security guards were unable to prevent the influx of people.

Calixto immediately went to the vice mayor's office on the fourth floor. Tolentino was then out of the office attending a meeting.

When asked why he suddenly decided to return to City Hall, Calixto said he was just following the court's orders to resume his post.

"I don't want to be charged with dereliction of duties. They have already charged me with usurpation of authority. To be charged with dereliction of duties because I am not performing my functions as vice mayor is too much," Calixto said.

Tolentino's staff was ordered out of the office by Calixto's supporters. Tolentino later claimed some Calixto supporters even pointed guns at two of his staff members.

"In fact, one of my female employees is still in shock because of what happened," he added.

When asked how Calixto's men were able to bring the guns, Quial said the building's metal detector was not working.

Panaligan conceded City Hall security had become lax.

The mayor criticized Calixto for lacking the patience to wait for the implementing order from the Department of Interior and Local Government. "You have seen the lawlessness here today. He took the law into his own hands, " said Panaligan.

PASAY CITY HALL
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FORMER Pasay City Vice Mayor Antonino Calixto walks away from City Hall after he was able to slip in undetected yesterday. Calixto stayed for over two hours before he left the premises. Policemen later blocked outsiders, including journalists, from entering the building. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN, REM ZAMORA

Lacuna for mayor; Belmonte for Noynoy

By Allison W. Lopez and Margaux C. Ortiz

WE WILL BEAUTIFY THEIR lives, not just their surroundings.

In a formal announcement yesterday of his candidacy for mayor of Manila, Danny Lacuna said he and his "Yes Manila" ticket would focus on the people and not only on infrastructures.

Lacuna is currently vice mayor to third-term Mayor Lito Atienza, whose "Buhayin ang Maynila" program centers on the city's rehabilitation.

The vice mayor will be pitted against the mayor's son, Ali, in the May elections.

YES Manila stands for Youth and Experience sa Manila, which Lacuna said is a potent combination of his 27-year local government experience and the "youth" represented by his vice mayor, Councilor Isko Moreno, a former actor.

The YES Manila ticket is composed of members of the PDP-Laban, NPC, Kampi, Lakas and Liberal Party.

ELECTION '07

In Quezon City, Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. cited former President Corazon Aquino's role in his ascent to public office as he declared his support for her son's senatorial bid.

In a meeting with the city's barangay leaders in a Quezon City restaurant the other night, Belmonte, a Lakas member aligned with the administration, said his "own personal vote" was for Genuine Opposition senatorial candidate Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III.

"On a personal basis, I support him," Belmonte told reporters.

"But I believe the barangay leaders can decide for themselves whether to vote for him or not," he added.

Court stops BJMP head from holding office

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A QUEZON CITY REGIONAL TRIAL COURT (RTC) has ordered Chief Supt. Armando Llamasares to "cease and desist from performing and discharging the duties of the Office of the Director of the BJMP in the interest of public service."

Judge Jose Paneda of the QC RTC Branch 220 also issued a similar order to petitioner Chief Supt. Clarito Jover.

The court issued a temporary restraining order against Llamasares, the recently-appointed chief of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, after Jover, the former officer in charge, questioned his credentials.

Paneda directed Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Ronaldo Puno to act as BJMP chief for 20 days.

In his petition for a temporary restraining order against Llamasares, Jover alleged the new BJMP head did not possess the 3rd level eligibility (Career Service Eligibility/Career Executive Service or CSEE/CES) required for the position.

President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed Llamasares on Feb. 21.

In an earlier hearing, court documents showed that Llamasares admitted he was not a career executive service officer or CES eligible. But he said he passed the qualifying examinations for the position of Senior Police Officer given by the National Police Commission (Napolcom).

"The petitioner averred that in view of the extreme urgency of the present petition, grave and irreparable injury would be caused and inflicted not only on the economic and professional interest (of the petitioner) but on the morale and satisfaction of both uniformed and nonuniformed personnel of the BJMP," the order said.

Paneda cited a similar case involving former BJMP chief Arturo Alit and Senior Supt. Josue Engano.

Jover's lawyer, Danny Villanueva, earlier likened his client's situation to Alit's. Malacañang chose Engano despite the DILG's recommendation to appoint Alit to the top BJMP post.

Alit questioned the appointment in the QC RTC, claiming that Engano's appointment was highly irregular and illegal because he lacked the minimum qualifications for the job.

The INQUIRER tried to contact Jover and Llamasares for their reactions but both could not be reached. Jover's assistant, Senior Insp. Julius Arro, agreed to speak on behalf of Jover.

"General Jover feels very happy and vindicated with the decision," Arro told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

According to records obtained by Jover, only he and nine other officials from the BJMP were eligible as career executive officers as of Dec. 31, 2006.

The list did not include Llamasares.

METROBRIEFS

A matter of fees

THE CLASS action suit filed by journalists against President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, in retaliation for the string of libel cases he has initiated, has bogged down because of a dispute over the payment of docket fees. Lawyers for both camps are squabbling over how much the journalists should pay to cover the P12.5 million in damages they are seeking from the First Gentleman. The damage suit is pending before the sala of Judge Zenaida Galapate-Laguilles of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 143, who has not set a hearing pending the resolution of the matter. The dispute stemmed from the original complaint, which demanded from Arroyo P2 million in actual damages, P5 million each in moral and exemplary damages, and P500,000 in attorney's fees, for "each" of the plaintiffs. But the complainants—some 36 individual journalists and three media organizations—later filed an amended complaint stating that the word "each" should be omitted, and that the damages should be paid to the group as a whole. The journalists said it was just a clerical error, adding that the amendment conforms with their intention to "claim damages for the Philippine press as a unified institution." H. arry Roque, the plaintiffs' lawyer, could not give an estimate of how much his clients should pay if the suit were to claim damages for all of them, but said it would be much bigger than what they paid. But . Arroyo, in a reply filed on March 5, said it was clear that the use of the word "each" in the list of damages sought clearly denotes that "each of the plaintiffs desires to recover."

DJ Yap

Still in control

PARAÑAQUE City Mayor Florencio Bernabe Jr. said yesterday the city government was still in control of the main gates of Aguirre and El Grande Avenues in BF Homes, adding that reports that the Court of Appeals' dismissed a petition questioning a temporary restraining order against the opening of two roads were "misleading and confusing to the public." "The city government of Parañaque continues to manage and maintain traffic flow of the main streets of BF Homes for the benefit of the residents of the subdivision and the general public," Bernabe said in a statement. Contrary to the impression given by the reports, control over the main gates was not back in the hands of the United BF Homeowners Association (UBFHAI), he said. On Tuesday, the CA dismissed a petition by former city Mayor Joey Marquez questioning the TRO against the opening of the two roads to motorists. In a resolution dated Feb. 28, the appellate court said the petition was already moot and academic since the Muntinlupa RTC subsequently issued a writ of preliminary injunction that stopped the opening of the roads.

Julie M. Aurelio

Ikebana lectures at Shang

THE ANNUAL exhibit of the Ikebana International, Manila Chapter 108, in cooperation with the Shangri-La Plaza Corporation, is ongoing until March 11 at the 2nd floor, Grand Atrium, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City. Titled "Looking Back and Moving On," the exhibit pays tribute to founder Carmen Guevarra and all past presidents of the 40-year-old organization. Open free to the public, lecture-demonstrations will be conducted by Serapion S. Metilla on Saturday, from 3-5:30 p.m., and Joyce Kato on Sunday, also from 3-5:30 p.m. Teachers will be on hand to help anyone interested in this ancient floral art.

DID YOU KNOW

THE NATIONAL Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, which holds office in San Miguel, Manila, is the first national machinery of women in Asia. It was created on Jan. 7, 1975 by President Ferdinand Marcos through Presidential Decree No. 633. NCRFW advises the President and the Cabinet on policies and programs for the advancement of women. It also monitors the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

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Commons' move may end unelected tenure of UK Lords

By Alan Owell

LONDON—AFTER CENTURIES of pageantry and power struggles between the elite and the commoners, the House of Commons voted overwhelmingly on Wednesday to introduce elections to the House of Lords. The move could finally end the tenure of appointed and hereditary peers on the red leather benches of the upper chamber and replace them with elected legislators.

The challenge to Britain's unelected upper house was the most serious in decades, though perhaps not as absolute as Oliver Cromwell's abolition of the House of Lords for several years in the 17th century. Modern efforts to reform the upper house began almost a century ago, after the lords opposed the government's budgetary proposals in 1911.

"This is a historic step forward on an issue that has been a matter of debate for decades," Jack Straw, the leader of the House of Commons, said in a statement. "The House of Commons has broken the deadlock. It is a dramatic result in the history of the British Parliament."

The House of Commons voted 337-224 in favor of pursuing legislation to elect the entire upper house, which would represent a major constitutional shift and align British practices more closely with those of other bicameral legislatures, like that in the United States.

In a separate vote by a narrower margin of 305-267, Commons also approved a reform that would make 80 percent of the House of Lords elected and the remaining 20 percent appointed. The House of Lords currently has 744 members, according to Parliament's web site, www.parliament.uk.

In a further ballot, the Commons voted by 391-111 to remove the last remaining 92 hereditary peers—the political descendants of a house that was once dominated by lords given their places by dint of noble birth as members of the aristocracy. In earlier reforms in 1999 some 600 hereditary peers were removed.

Legislators from both houses must now draw up and debate new laws to put Wednesday's vote into effect. The process could take months, political analysts said, but the votes on Wednesday may have generated political impetus to stiffen Parliament's resolve.

The nonbinding measure was far more sweeping than Prime Minister Tony Blair had advocated. According to his office, Blair himself voted for a proposal that would establish a 50-50 split between elected and appointed peers, whose function offers a blend of ceremony among their ermine-clad ranks and rearguard actions against decisions by the fully elected House of Commons, numbering about 640 legislators.

The Lords' power is limited. The upper house can delay but not overrule decisions by the Commons. *New York Times News Service*

Troubled astronaut fired

POLICE mugshot of Nowak AP

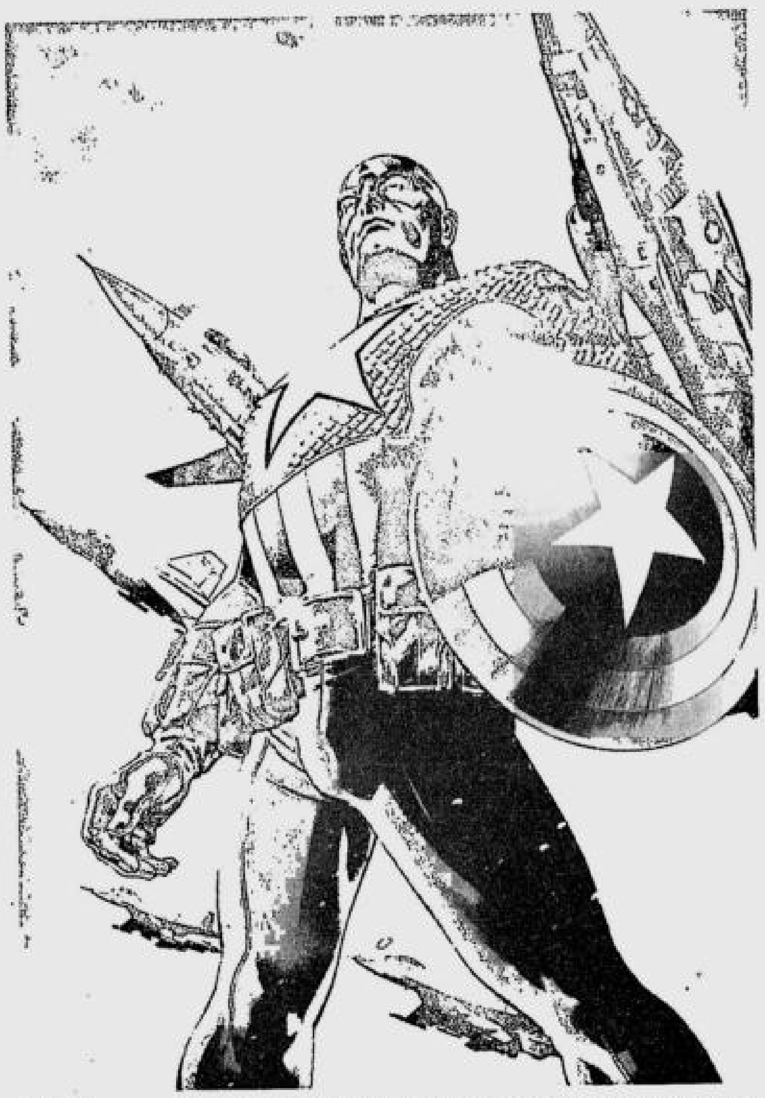
HOUSTON—ASTRONAUT Lisa Nowak was fired by Nasa on Wednesday, little more than a month after she was arrested on charges that she tried to kidnap a woman she regarded as romantic rival for the affections of a space shuttle pilot.

Nasa said the decision to terminate Nowak from the astronaut corps was by "mutual agreement" between the space agency and the Navy, where she is still an active duty officer.

The bizarre incident that led to Nowak's arrest on Feb. 6 so stunned Nasa that it announced it would review its screening process for the competitive and prestigious astronaut program.

Nasa said it "lacks the administrative means to deal appropriately with the criminal charges pending against Nowak" and that her next assignment would come from the Navy, which had assigned her to the space agency.

A spokesperson for Nowak, Cari Brunelle, said Nasa's decision "was anticipated." Nowak, 43, a Navy captain who became an astronaut in 1996 and flew just one space shuttle mission in July, was placed on leave after she was arrested last month in Orlando, Florida. She was accused of assaulting and trying to kidnap Air Force Capt. Colleen Shipman, whom she viewed as a rival for the affections of astronaut William Oefelein, a commander in the Navy. *Reuters*


THIS image originally supplied by Marvel Comics, shows comic book hero Captain America from the Ultimates universe. AP

Captain America, US hero since '41, is dead

CAPTAIN AMERICA, A MARVEL Entertainment superhero, is fatally shot by a sniper in the 25th issue of his eponymous comic, which arrived in stores on Wednesday. The assassination ends the sentinel of liberty's fight for right, which began in 1941.

The last episode in Captain America's life comes after the events of "Civil War," a seven-issue miniseries that has affected nearly the entire line of Marvel's library of titles. In "Civil War," the government began requiring superheroes to register their services, and it outlawed vigilantism after supervillains and superheroes fought during a reality show, accidentally killing hundreds of civilians. The public likened the heroes to weapons of mass destruction that must be controlled.

The registration act polarized the superhero community. Captain America (whose true identity was Steve Rogers) considered the legislation an erosion of civil liberties; Iron Man, on the other side, believed that training heroes as the military, firefighters or the police are trained would only benefit society. When the factions came to blows and caused more destruction, Captain America chose to fight his battle in court.

But in the current issue of his title, Captain America takes bullets in the shoulder and stomach while on the courthouse steps. The assassin is alleged to be Sharon Carter, an intelligence agent romantically involved with Captain America. She was apparently under the control of Dr. Faustus, a supervillain. "It seemed a little radical when it was first brought up," said Dan Buckley, the president and publisher of Marvel Entertainment, about the hero's death. "But sometimes stories just take you places."

"We as publishers and as creative people knew where the ending was going to go for a long time," he said. "We knew people might not like it, but I think we delivered a compelling story that made everyone think."

This is not Captain America's first brush with death. Toward the end of World War II he plunged into the ocean during a flight on an experimental plane, and he was presumed killed in action. *NYT*

WorldBriefs

Immigrants sue US over visas to crime victims

SAN FRANCISCO—Attorneys for undocumented immigrants who have suffered violent crimes sued the federal government for failing to issue protective visas approved by Congress more than six years ago. The 2000 Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act created a visa category allowing such victims who cooperate with law enforcement to remain in the country and eventually apply for permanent residency. But immigration officials haven't implemented the "U" visa, making it impossible for people to take advantage of the protection, the attorneys said. "We finally decided that without the intervention of the federal courts, we could easily be waiting for another six years before an application form is made available," said Peter A. Schey, president of the Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law and lead counsel for the lawsuit filed Wednesday in San Francisco. *AP*

US man jailed for shoving cell phone down gf's throat

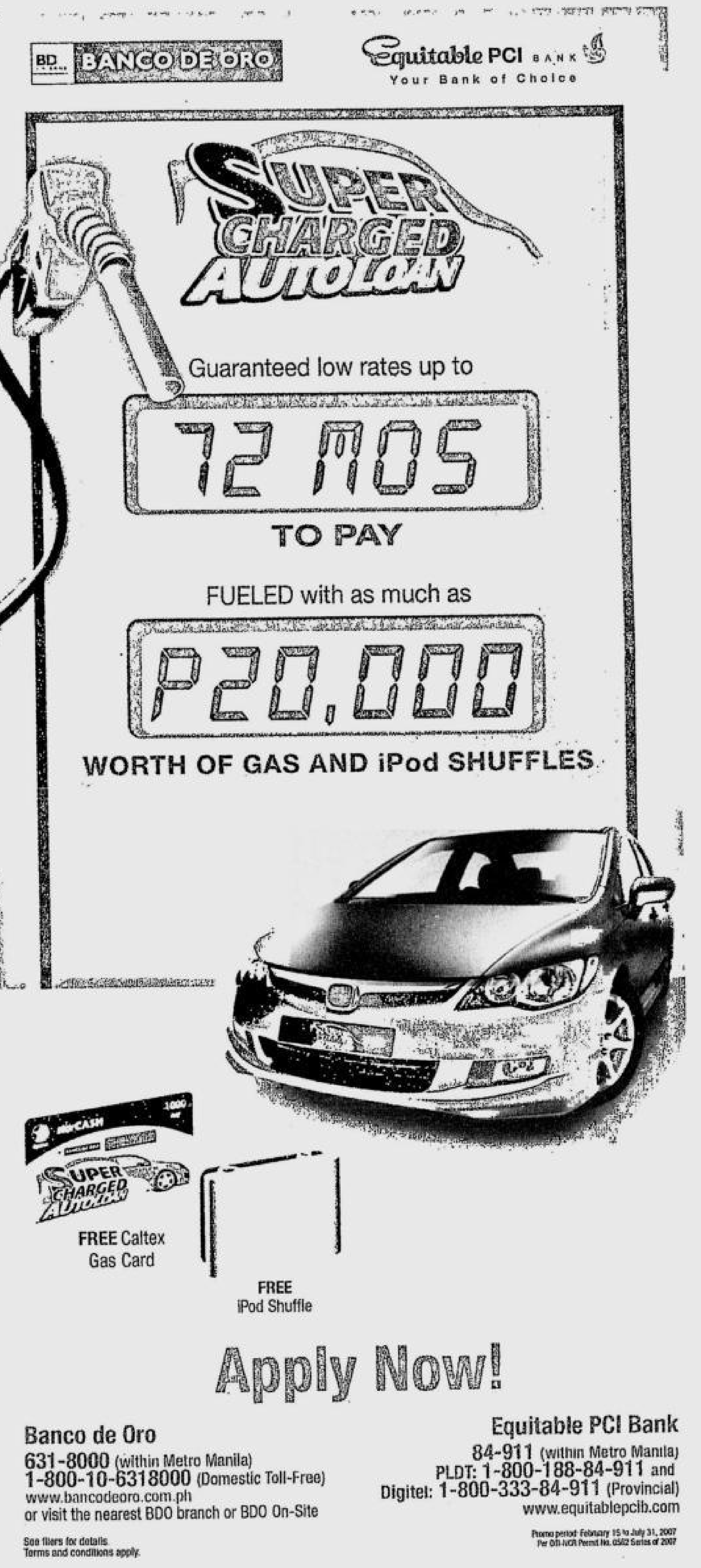
INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI—A man convicted for shoving a cell phone down his girlfriend's throat was sentenced Wednesday to six years in prison. Marlon Brando Gill, 25, faced a maximum sentence of seven years in prison after a jury convicted him last month of second-degree assault for the December 2005 incident, but his attorney says he will appeal the conviction. Gill has been jailed since his arrest more than a year ago and has been tried twice. Gill told jurors in both trials that the victim, Melinda Abell, intentionally put the phone in her own mouth after he asked her whom she had been calling. Prosecutors argued that Gill became angry with Abell. Doctors said Abell nearly died from the blocked airway before a surgeon was able to remove the phone before performing surgery. *AP*

In tit for tat, China hits US rights record worldwide

BEIJING—China on Thursday assailed the human cost of America's overseas wars as well as rights abuses within the US in its annual riposte to Washington's criticism of Beijing's own record on human rights. "The United States has lorded it over other countries by condemning their human rights practices while ignoring its own problems, which exposes its double standard and hegemonism on the human rights issue," said a report released by the State Council, China's cabinet. "America's international image has been greatly hurt by its government's violation of human rights while flaunting the banner of 'safeguarding human rights.'" The report, titled "The Human Rights Record of the United States in 2006," cited massive civilian casualties in the Iraq conflict, violations of Geneva Conventions such as abuse of Iraqi prisoners and terror suspects, and the killings of unarmed civilians by US troops in Iraq. "The United States has a flagrant record of violating the Geneva Conventions in systematically abusing prisoners during the Iraqi War and the war in Afghanistan," it said. It also cited infringements on the civil rights of American citizens such as the Bush administration's surveillance of private communications in the name of the war on terror. *AFP*

Former Bangladesh PM's son arrested for graft

DHAKA—The son of outgoing Bangladeshi prime minister Khaleda Zia was arrested late Wednesday as security forces raided politicians' homes and a newspaper office as part of a major corruption crackdown, police said. Tareque Rahman, who has been widely accused of graft in the country's media, was the highest-profile detainee after the series of raids, including on the home of main opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed. *AFP*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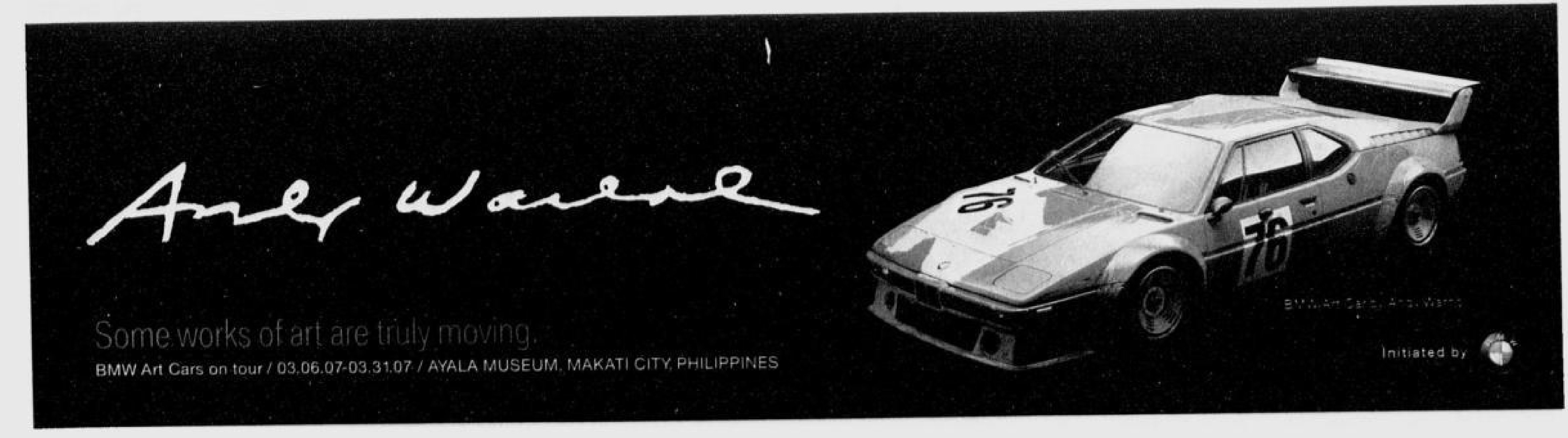
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Cheney under siege after Libby trial

WASHINGTON—THE WHITE HOUSE OFFERED SUPPORT ON Wednesday for Vice President Dick Cheney, a powerful proponent of the Iraq war, after the conviction of his top aide dealt a fresh blow to Cheney's reputation and raised new questions about his influence.

The trial of Lewis "Scooter" Libby showed Cheney, often portrayed by critics as the shadowy Darth Vader behind the war in Iraq, was deeply involved in an effort to discredit a critic of the administration's prewar intelligence.

Libby's conviction on perjury and obstruction of justice charges placed Cheney squarely in the center of a new political storm. Democrats said Libby was "the fall guy" for his boss, who was not charged in the case and not called to testify.

White House spokesperson Tony Snow said Cheney would remain an influential and trusted adviser to President George W. Bush.

"To the idea that somewhere the vice president has been 'diminished' … No, not true," Snow told reporters. "The vice president still remains a trusted aide. The vice president is somebody upon whose counsel the president depends." The administration offered concrete evidence of Cheney's continued role in the last week. As the jury deliberated Libby's case, Cheney completed a trip around the world to make the administration's diplomatic case against Iran's nuclear ambitions and for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On his return, he was greeted as a hero in a speech to a conference of conservative activists who constitute the administration's core group of supporters.

"Publicly he may be scarred, he's a damaged commodity, but the question is whether he still has clout in the administration and the answer has to be yes," said Stephen Hess, a presidential scholar at the Brookings Institution. "He really has a constituency of one—President Bush," Hess said. "We really don't know what that relationship is, but there is no evidence that it has been impaired. The president still seems to listen to him."

Cheney said he was "disappointed" by the conviction of Libby in the probe of the leak of CIA operative Valerie Plame's identity. Plame's husband, former Ambassador Joseph Wilson, publicly challenged the administration's intelligence claims about Iraq. *Reuters*

CHENEY: Decreasing influence? AP

PLAME : Spy outed by news leak. REUTERS

Press takes worst collateral damage from prosecution

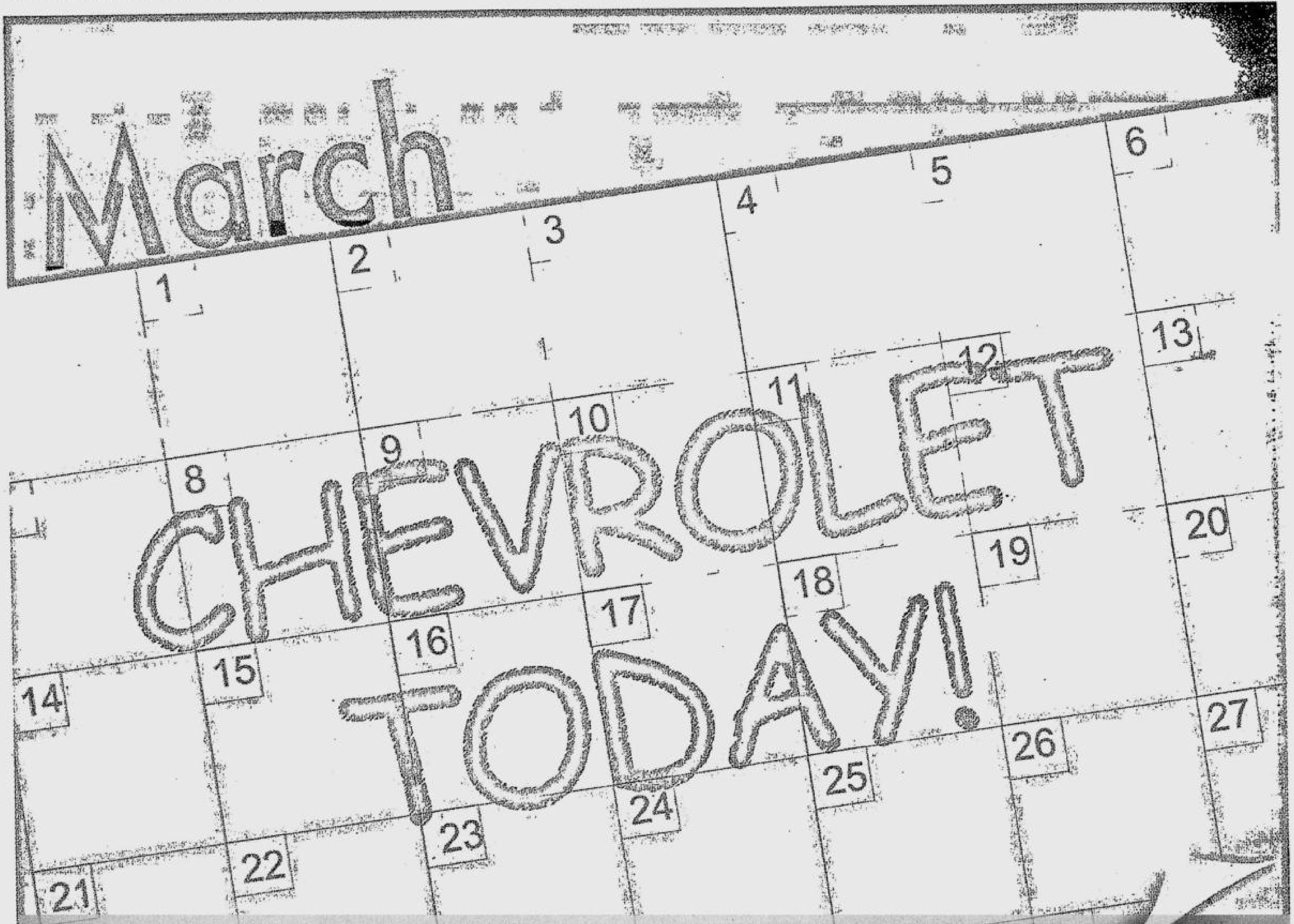
THE INVESTIGATION AND TRIAL of I. Lewis Libby Jr., who was Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff, will have legacies and lessons for government officials, supporters and critics of special prosecutors and historians of the war in Iraq.

But the institution most transformed by the prosecution, and the one that took the most collateral damage from Patrick J. Fitzgerald's relentless pursuit of obstruction and perjury charges against Libby, may have been the press, forced in the end to play a major role in his trial.

Following Libby's conviction on Tuesday, it is possible to start assessing that damage to the legal protections available to news organizations, to relationships between journalists and sources and to the informal but longstanding understanding in Washington, now shattered, that leak investigations should be pressed only so hard.

Ten out of 19 of the witnesses in Libby's trial were journalists, which would have been unthinkable a few years ago. Even more unusual, three of them played a central role in securing the conviction of Libby, their former source, by testifying about conversations they had once fought to keep secret by invoking the First Amendment and the crucial role that confidential informants play in informing citizens in a free society.

"Every tenet and every pact that existed between the government and the press has been broken," said Theodore J. Boutrous Jr., a media lawyer who represented Time magazine and one of its reporters in their unsuccessful efforts to fight subpoenas from Fitzgerald, the special counsel in the Libby case. *NYT*



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WHAT'S INSIDE

James lifts Cavs; Shaq dominates /A23

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RP team to train in US

China may join invitational tourney here

By Musong R. Castillo

THE PHILIPPINE TEAM WILL NOT BE GOING DOWN UNDER anymore, and instead, will leave on March 29 for a two-week training camp in the United States after its budget was approved without a hitch this week.

Meanwhile, the PBA is close to getting confirmation for a fourth Asian national team—China—to play in an invitational tournament in Manila in July.

The Philippine squad has also confirmed its participation in a tough Invitational tournament in Qatar in July, a few days after its expected romp in the Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) championship.

National coach Chot Reyes has stricken off the Australian Invitational from the team's itinerary after China said that it would not participate there.

"Coach Chot wants to play the Asian teams as many times as we can before the Fiba-Asia," PBA commissioner Noli Eala told the INQUIRER Wednesday night. "[Without China there], going to Australia would not be advisable anymore."

Eala added that the Korean Basketball League, where most of the Korean national team members and the Chinese-Taipei squad will come from, confirmed their stints in the Manila Invitational.

The Fiba-Asia is the qualifying tournament for the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics in China. To get there, the Philippines must finish in the top two of the Seaba, which the country could end up hosting.

In the US, the RP five is set to join a training camp in Los Angeles, which also hosts a tournament of sorts participated in by free agents looking for spots in NBA squads. After that training camp, where the Nationals will play scrimmages with the NBA players and go through grueling

RP TEAM/ A22

STA. LUCIA'S Rock Winston takes it strong to the hoop against Air21's Mark Andaya. ERIK ARAZAS

Depleted Beermen pray Messiah will be a savior

SAN MIGUEL BEER, A SIDE BADLY DEPLETED after its key players were drafted into the national team, literally has a Messiah to prop its fortunes in the PBA Fiesta Cup.

Vidal Messiah and the rest of the Beermen debut in the import-laced tournament opposite defending champion Red Bull, which seeks the early lead in the 7:20 p.m. contest at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay.

San Miguel will play minus top guns Danny Seigle and Dondon Hontiveros, who were both selected to the national team.

There will be a lot of scoring holes to plug there, and Messiah must prove up to the task if he hopes to retain his job after not being San Miguel's original import choice.

Kelly Whitney was measured to be over the height limit on Tuesday and interim coach Biboy Ravanes had said that Messiah will get to play on a game-to-game basis as management scouts for a replacement for Whitney.

Coca-Cola also shoots for a second straight win like the Barako, clashing with Purefoods and Jesse King in the 4:35 p.m. contest.

It would be interesting to see how Anthony

DEPLETED/ A22

STANDINGS	W	L
Alaska	1	0
Red Bull	1	0
Air21	1	0
Coca-Cola	1	0
Talk N Text	0	1
Welcoat	0	1
Sta. Lucia	0	1
Purefoods	0	1
Ginebra	X	X
San Miguel	X	X

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7:20 p.m.—Red Bull vs. San Miguel

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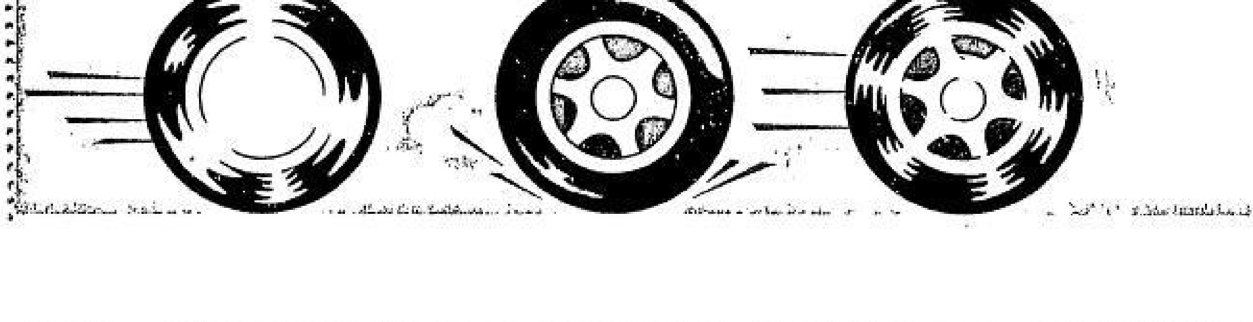

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OLYMPIC FESTIVAL

Shoeless Lany shines

Barefoot runner powers P'sinan back to the top

By June Navarro

VIGAN, ILOCOS SUR—A daughter of a fisherman from the coastal town of Bolinao accomplished a rare quadruple gold-medal feat in athletics with her bare feet, catapulting Pangasinan back to top of the medal race in the Philippine Olympic Festival.

Lany Cardona, 16, burned the track with successive victories in the 10,000-meter run and 1,500m run for girls to follow up her earlier supremacy in the 5,000m and 3,000m events the other day.

Running shoeless, Cardona left the entire field in the 10,000m run biting her dust after completing the lung-busting race in 45 minutes and 19 seconds, almost six minutes ahead of provincemate Vanessa Membrado, who checked in at 51:36.6.

Theresa Decano of Ilocos Sur settled for the bronze after clocking 51:49.4.

Cardona later capped a fruitful day by snatching the gold in the 1,500m in five minutes and 26 seconds.

"I'm more comfortable running on barefoot," said Cardona, a fourth-year student from Pilar National High School in Bolinao, Pangasinan, in Filipino. "But honestly, I didn't expect to win most of my events."

Except for a silver in the 800m run, Cardona made hay in her other events to duplicate the rare feat of gymnast Marie Rose Mendoza, the first quadruple gold medalist of the games.

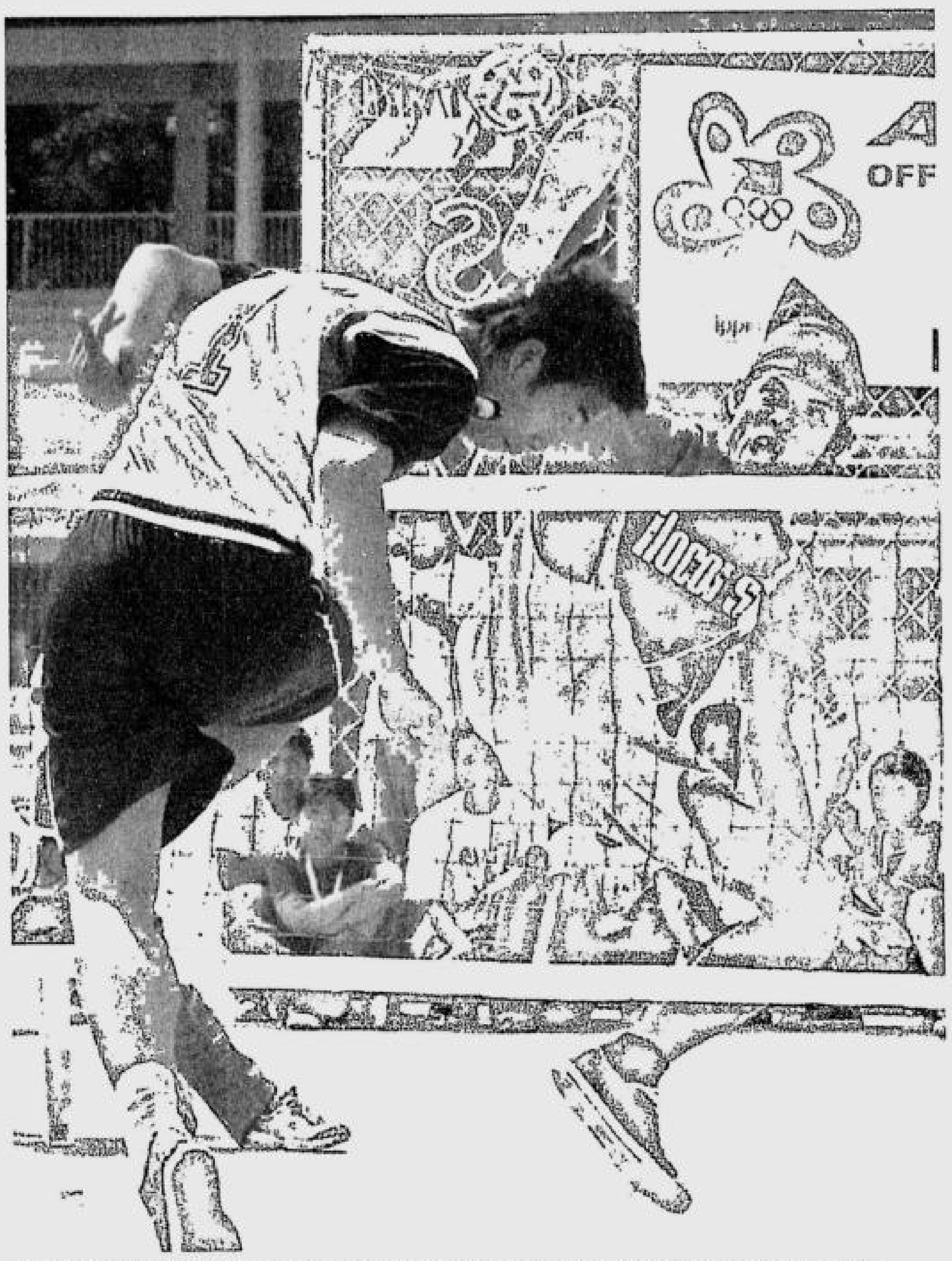
"I wish I could join the national team after the national championships," said Cardona, who could make it five gold medals in the 4 x 400-m relay for girls today.

Also increasing the 17-8-8 gold-silver-bronze medal haul of Pangasinan were Debby Catabay (girls' high jump), Joebert Maraya (boys' 400m hurdles), Rochille Corpuz (girls' triple jump) and the 4 x 100-m relay team anchored on Catabay.

Bulacan (11-7-6) dropped to second overall a day after lording it over in gymnastics while Baguio City (10-12-8) and Ilocos Norte (10-10-8) are in a tight race for third.

Baguio scored victories in the boys' category of the 4 x 100m relay, 800m run (Herald Pagaduan), 400m dash (Emmanuel Lucas), triple jump (John Joseph Pelegrino) and 10,000m run (Cesar Castaneto).

Like Bulacan, Ilocos Norte also slowed down after a brilliant showing in gymnastics. Ilocos Norte survived the penalty shootout with Tarlac to prevail in football, 4-2, and reign supreme in the 16-17 year-old category for its lone gold of the day.



LEO JAINAR (right) of Ilocos Sur tries but fails to claim the scalp of Jetro Jullano and the Baguio squad in sepak takraw. Baguio won the gold medal. RYAN LIM

Tracksters caught flat-footed by 'fee'

VIGAN, ILOCOS SUR—NO PAY, no play.

A couple of long-distance runners from host Ilocos Sur and La Union failed to compete after organizers of the Philippine Olympic Festival here unexpectedly charged them an entrance fee for their respective events.

Ilocos Sur's Divina Noces and Allan Galao missed the girls' 3,000-meter run and the 5,000m run for boys, respectively, on Tuesday morning.

On La Union's case, Joven Lopez and Wilson Galera watched on the sidelines as Baguio's Cesar Castaneta Jr. seized the first gold of the games through the boys' 5,000m track event.

"My athletes weren't allowed to run because we don't have the money to pay for the entrance fee," said Ilocos Sur provincial sports coordinator Leo Palma in Filipino. "This stadium is ours. We shouldn't be barred from playing here."

Organizers charge P350 per entry in athletics, P200 per event in karatedo, P150 per athlete in taekwondo and P50 per player in table tennis, among others.

Palma said Noces was disallowed to participate in the 3,000m run handily won by Pangasinan's Lany Cardona, who only had to defeat teammate Vanessa Membrado to seize the gold.

Palma, who promised to pay the entrance fees in the other events, added Galao missed the 5,000m run after the coaching staff failed to raise the amount before the race started.

"I have never seen anything like it in my nine years as sports coordinator of Ilocos Sur," said Palma, who also received threats of medal forfeiture from the organizers if his delegation fails to cough up the required fees.

The same sentiment was echoed by La Union sports coordinator Bryan Ronquillo, who went out of his way to air his grievances to the media.

"They didn't notify us that they will charge entrance fees for every event," said Ronquillo. "The money that we brought was good only for transportation and allowances of the athletes." *June Navarro*

Nat'l poker tilt set

THE SEARCH FOR THE THIRD national poker champion is on.

Qualifying/satellite tournaments for the third Philippine Poker Tour Million-Peso Hold'Em Philippine Championship start on Friday, March 9 at San Mig, Alabang Town Center and will be held every Wednesdays and Fridays thereafter.

Other venues include Valle Verde Country Club starting March 14 and every Wednesdays and Fridays at Casino Filipino sites nationwide.

"Now we have (Manny) Pacquiao in boxing and Bata (Reyes) and Ronnie Alcano in billiards as world champions. Why not a Filipino world champion in poker?" said PPT chair Reynaldo Gamboa during the launching of the event—a joint project of PPT and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor).

Now on its third year, the poker circuit is the leading advocate of non-wager poker skills tournament in the country.

Winners of the qualifying/satellite competition earn seats to the grand finals set July 8-9.

The grand champion is again guaranteed a minimum of P1 million and the coveted Champion's bracelet.

Gamboa said the prize structure has been enhanced in line with PPT and Pagcor objective of expanding the coverage and level of participation in the competition.

Details of prize structure and tournament rules are posted in the official PPT website, www.PhilippinePokerTour.com. Interested parties may also call 8179092 or 8120153.

RP boxers still without military clearance

By Dennis U. Eroa
Libre Sports Editor

BOXING'S QUEST FOR THE COUNTRY'S FIRST Olympic gold next year in Beijing hit a snag following the failure of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (Abap) to secure releases from the Armed Forces of the Philippines for two of its top boxers.

Abap president Manny Lopez yesterday expressed concern that the boxing team's Olympic preparations will severely be affected if Violito Payla, winner of the flyweight gold in the Doha Asian Games, light flyweight Harry Tañamor and Godfrey Castro and lightweight Genebert Basadre will not be able to secure their Detail Service (DS) Order from their mother unit.

A DS order allows the boxers—who are enlisted military personnel—to be freed from military service to join the national team training.

Also unable to rejoin the national training team at the Teacher's Camp in Baguio City is national head coach Sgt. Patrico Gaspi. All belong to the Philippine Army.

Castro replaced Tañamor and salvaged the bronze in Doha. Basadre also pocketed the bronze in the quadrennial Games.

"I'm alarmed because our Olympic preparations are being hampered," said Lopez. "The mechanics are in place. Without our big guns, Abap can only do so much."

POC deputy secretary general Mark Joseph, however, said the AFP has agreed to release 215 athletes under its wing for the Olympics.

Joseph said the AFP communication which came out Wednesday allows the enlisted personnel to focus on training for the Beijing Olympics next year and the Southeast Asian Games in December. *With a report from Marc Anthony Reyes*

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. Procurement of 3rd and 4th Quarter Requirements for CY 2007 Reflective Sheeting Materials
2. Procurement of 3rd and 4th Quarter Requirement for CY 2007 Validation Stickers and Plate Year Tags

The Land Transportation Office, through General Fund (Fund 101) intends to apply the following Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of payment for the aforesaid procurement, to wit:

	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
Procurement of 3rd and 4th quarter Requirements for CY 2007 Reflective Sheeting Materials	Php 30,513,985.02
Procurement of 3rd and 4th quarter Requirements for Cy 2007 Validation Stickers and Plate Year Tags	Php 12,566,475.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Land Transportation Office now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the items. The required delivery schedule will be indicated in the approved Contract. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Sub-Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complet set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Php 10,000.00 per project, in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The Land Transportation Office will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on March 20, 2007 at 10.00 A.M. for the procurement of 3rd and 4th quarter requirements for CY 2007 Reflective Sheeting Materials and at 2:00 P.M. for the procurement of 3rd and 4th quarter requirements for CY 2007 Validation Stickers and Plate Year Tags at the LTO-Library, East Avenue, Quezon City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on March 20, 2007 at 10:00 A.M. for the procurement of 3rd and 4th quarter requirements for CY 2007 Reflective Sheeting Materials and at 2:00 P.M for the procurement of 3rd and 4th quarter requirements for CY 2007 Validation Stickers and Plate Year. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form.

Form of Security		Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1.	Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)
2.	Bank guarantee	One and a half Percent (1 ½%)
3.	Surety Bond	Two and a half Percent (2 ½%)
4.	Foreign government guarantee	One hundred percent (100%)

Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on April 2, 2007 at 10:00 A.M. for the procurement of 3rd and 4th quarter requirements for CY 2007 Reflective Sheeting Materials and at 2:00 P.M. for the procurement of 3rd and 4th quarter requirements for Cy 2007 Validation Stickers and Plate Year at the LTO Library, East Avenue, Quezon City.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The Land Transportation Office reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Land Transportation Office
Atty. Jimmy G. Pesigan - Chairman, BAC
East Avenue, Quezon City
(02) 9219077 - telefax

(Sgd.) ATTY. JIMMY G. PESIGAN
BAC-Chairman

(PDI - March 9, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region V (Bicol)
Legazpi City

DepED

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education Regional/Division Offices, through its Regional/Division Bids and Awards Committees (BAC's), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

NAME OF PROJECT	CY 2006 Supply and Delivery of School Furniture
LOCATION	DepED Regional Office and DepED Division Offices
BRIEF DESCRIPTION	Package A – Elementary Tables and Chair / Teachers Table and Chair Package B – Elementary Tablet Armchair/Secondary Tablet Armchair/Teachers Table and Chair
ABC & FUNDING SOURCE	Funding Source is the Government of the Philippines (GOP), 2006 General Appropriations Act (GAA)
CONTRACT DURATION	One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar Days
DELIVERY SITES	"Door to Door" delivery to various recipient schools (See schedule of Requirements of the Bidding Documents)

Name of Procuring Entity	Address	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Issuance of Bid Documents	Pre-Bid Conference	Opening of Bids
DepED Regional Office V	Rawis, Legazpi City	P14,811,000.00	Starting March 1, 2007	March 15, 2007	March 27, 2007
Albay	Bicol University Compound, Legazpi City	7,370,000.00		March 15, 2007	March 27, 2007
Tabaco City	San Lorenzo, Tabuco City	4,219,000.00		March 8, 2007	March 21, 2007
Legazpi City	Old Albay District Legazpi City	881,000.00		March 8, 2007	March 20, 2007
Ligao City	Guild, Ligao City	3,482,000.00			
Camarines Norte	Daet, Camarines Norte	5,144,000.00		March 8, 2007	March 20, 2007
Camarines Sur	San Jose, Pili, Camarines Sur	19,406,000.00		March 8, 2007	March 22, 2007
Naga City	Penafrancia Avenue, Naga City	742,000.00		March 8, 2007	March 20, 2007
Iriga City	Iriga City	480,000.00		March 8, 2007	March 20, 2007
Catanduanes	Virac, Catanduanes	4,117,000.00		March 8, 2007	March 20, 2007
Masbate	Rodeo Road, Masbate City	12,555,000.00		March 8, 2007	March 21, 2007
Masbate City	Masbate City	2,708,000.00		March 8, 2007	March 22, 2007
Sorsogon	Sorsogon City, Sorsogon	8,334,000.00		March 12, 2007	March 23, 2007
Sorsogon City	Sorsogon NHS Compound, Sorsogon City	4,613,000.00		March 8, 2007	March 22, 2007

The venue for the scheduled procurement activities will be at the respective address of the procuring entity. Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount required by the entity concerned.

The provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations shall govern relative to the bidding and award of contract including its implementation.

The DepED reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) ENRIQUE A. LLEGADO
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
DepED Regional Office No. V
Legazpi City

(PDI - March 3 & 9, 2007)

RP team . . .

From page A21

conditioning and skills sessions, they fly to Europe, where they will stay for 10 days.

The team has no definite destination yet in Europe because it is still finding out which tournament the Asian heavyweights will play in before finalizing its itinerary.

Eala, who is a member of the RP Team budget committee together with San Miguel executive Robert Non, Red Bull team manager Tony Chua and Smart/PLDT's Ricky Vargas, said the budget for the squad was already approved hitch-free, allowing the coaching staff to start planning on getting ready for the international tournaments it is scheduled to play in.

An earlier INQUIRER report said that the budget could run to P70 million until the Fiba-Asia in Tokoshima, Japan, where the goal of the team will be to snag an Olympic berth. The figure includes bonuses and perks for the 12-man team.

A stint in the tough Qatar meet in July would complete Team Philippines' up-close look on the opposition, with the Filipinos to play the Gulf teams like Jordan and Qatar there.

Meanwhile, Rudy Hatfield is still seeking a compromise that will allow him to wear the national colors and go on with his wedding, which had been planned close to a year before he was named to the RP 5.

Preparations for the wedding, which will conflict with the team's schedule, have already reached its final stages.

Hatfield was due to arrive last night from the US. Also planing in soon are Mark Caguioa and Jayjay Helterbrand, giving the RP team an intact lineup once it starts training on Monday.

If Hatfield cannot find a compromise with Reyes on a workable schedule, then the coaching staff will choose from among national team alternates Rafi Reavis, Rommel Adducul and Enrico Villanueva to take his place.

Depleted . . .

From page A21

Johnson, Coca-Cola's import, fares against a better team in his second PBA game.

In an 81-79 decision of Welcoat in the inaugurals, Johnson scored 12 points in the fourth period and finished with a team-high 29.

King did not do that bad in a 98-88 loss to Red Bull also on opening day. He finished with 24 points despite getting into early foul trouble.

But the Giants did not get the usual numbers from their local crew against Red Bull.

James Yap had 28 points and was the only local in twin digits for coach Ryan Gregorio, who will miss the national team draftee Kerby Raymundo for the tournament and Marc Pingris and Jun Limpot at least for another two weeks due to foot injuries. *Musong Castillo*

James lifts Cavs; Shaq dominates

DETROIT—LEBRON JAMES SCORED A SEASON-high 41 points to lift the Cleveland Cavaliers to within two games of the Central Division lead with a 101-97 win over the Detroit Pistons on Wednesday.

James added eight assists and hauled down seven rebounds as the Cavaliers secured their third straight win and handed Detroit its second loss in a row.

The game went into overtime after a video replay showed that a 27-foot basket by James at the buzzer did not count because time had expired.

Detroit lost for the third time in four games despite getting to the foul line 44 times.

Yao Ming scored 11 points in 18 minutes in his second game back from a broken leg to help the Houston Rockets beat the Boston Celtics, 111-80.

Shaquille O'Neal had 24 points, nine rebounds and a season-high eight assists as the Miami Heat pulled away in the second half to beat the Chicago Bulls, 103-70.

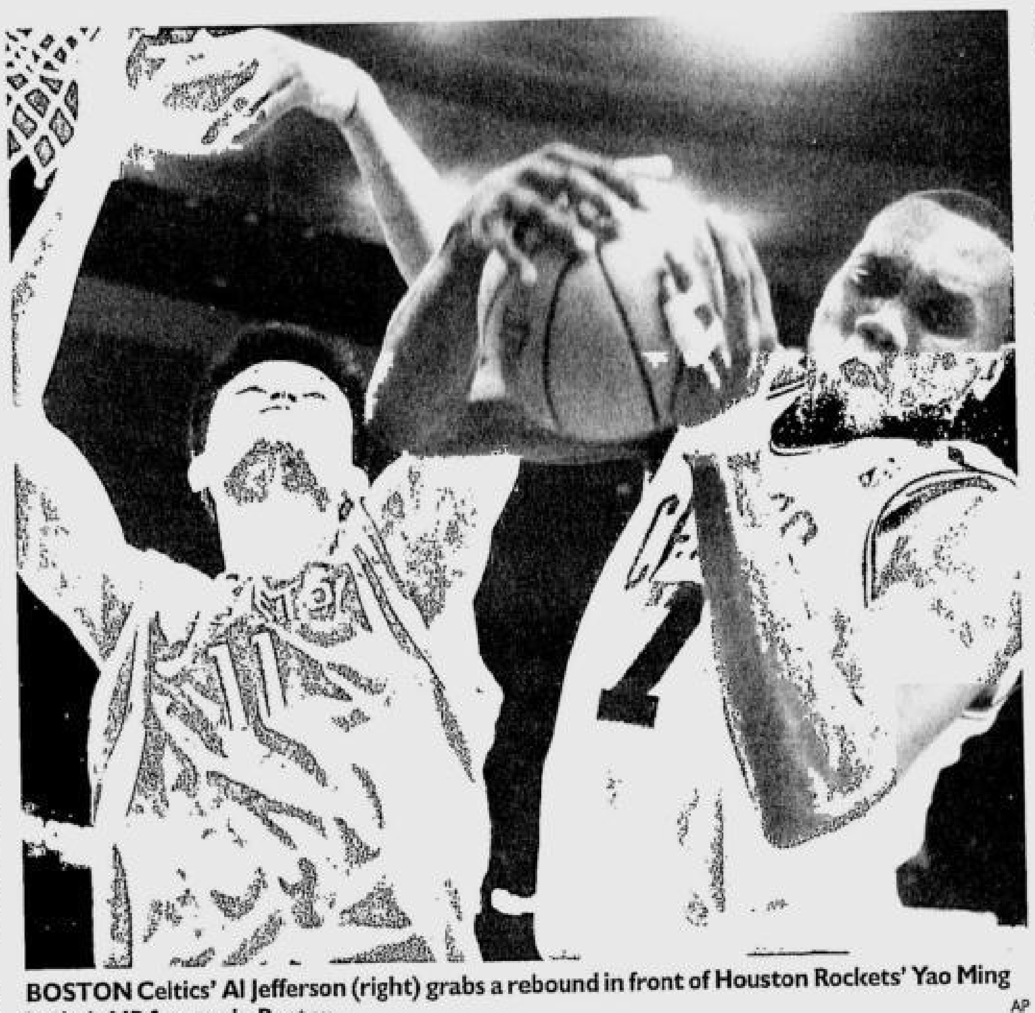
The Atlanta Hawks snapped a six-game losing streak by upsetting the Washington Wizards, 100-97.

The Philadelphia 76ers won their fifth straight as Andre Iguodala had a triple double to lead the Sixers past the Seattle SuperSonics, 92-89.

Chris Bosh had 19 points and nine rebounds as the Toronto Raptors snapped a three-game losing streak with a 94-87 win over the Memphis Grizzlies.

Kobe suspended

Meanwhile, Los Angeles' Kobe Bryant was suspended for one game for striking Minnesota's Marko Jaric in the face after taking a shot. Bryant will miss the Lakers' game at Milwaukee on Wednesday and forfeit about $161,000 (euro123,000) in salary. *Reuters,AP*


BOSTON Celtics' Al Jefferson (right) grabs a rebound in front of Houston Rockets' Yao Ming in their NBA game in Boston. AP

Rivera, Yang share honors

ARIEL RIVERA CARDED A 77 AND 76 FOR A 153 to nip Monsour del Rosario in the countback and top the celebrity division of the Omega Cup Philippines 2007 at Wack Wack's east course recently.

Richie Yang emerged the overall champion in the VIP division of the annual event sponsored by Omega, which also featured the country's top professional golfers and VIPs. He shot rounds of 70 and 69 to finish with a 139.

The other winners in the VIP category were Miguel Ozaeta—Class A (69-74-143); Luther Jao—Class B (73-68-141); Eaton Ong—Class C (68-73-141).

Del Rosario shot 77 and 75 (153) and settled for the Class A crown in celebrity play. Vic Sotto placed second with a 154 (81-73) while Maru Sotto finished third with a 156 (75-81) in the event organized by Len Plus Inc. headed by Marilen Nuñez. John Estrada took the Class B diadem with a 153 (66-87).

Tagaytay-RP prevails but yields crown

Standings after 8 rounds

1. Pavlodar (Kazakhstan) 26 points; 2-3 Tagaytay (RP), Saipa (Iran) 22; 4. Rah Ahan (Iran) 19.5; 5. Shanghai (China) 18.5; 6. Tidewater (Iran) 18; 7. Calicut (India) 15.5; 8-9 Amman (Jpordan), Sulamania (Iraq) 15; 10-14 Damascus (Syria), Colombo (Sri Lanka), Lahore (Pakistan), Aleppo (Syria), Sharjah (UAE) 14.5; 15-16 Tehran (Iran), Dubai (UAE) 14; 17. Erbiol (Iraq) 11; 18. Jerusalem (Palestine) 5.

TEHRAN, IRAN—TAGAYTAY-RP STRUGGLED PAST SHANGHAI (China), 2.5-1.5, in the eighth round Wednesday and virtually kissed its title-retention bid goodbye in the 15th Asian Cities Chess Team Championship at the Eram Grand Hotel in Vanak Square here.

International Masters Wesley So and Oliver Dimakiling struck anew for the Filipinos, who won for the fourth time in six matches, but failed in their bid to gain ground on pacesetting Pavlodar (Kazakhstan).

The Filipinos found themselves trailing the two-time champion Kazakhs by four points going into the ninth and final round scheduled at 10 a.m. Thursday (3 p.m. in Manila).

Pavlodar blanked the Nigel Short-coached all-female Tehran squad, 4-0, to virtually capture the championship and the coveted Dubai Cup worth $45,000.

The Kazakhs pulled away from the Filipinos and third seed Saipa (Iran), 26 points against 22.

The Filipinos will battle No. 13 seed Amman (Jordan) while the Iranians will tackle No. 11 Sulamania (Iraq) in the final round.

The Filipinos, being supported by Tagaytay City Mayor Bambol Tolentino and National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Rep. Prospero Pichay, are hoping for a 4-0 sweep over Amman to clinch runner-up honors.

So beat Wenjun Ju in 49 moves of the Queen's Indian while Dimakiling downed fellow IM Lin Ta in 25 moves of the Dutch Opening to boost their drive for the individual gold medals.

Both So and Dimakiling have 6.5 points in eight rounds on six wins, one draw and one loss to lead their respective boards.

GM Rogelio Antonio Jr. settled for a draw with WGM Wang Po in 21 moves of the Sicilian, but GM Mark Paragua suffered another loss to GM Jiangchao Zhou in 40 moves of the Slav in their top board encounter.

SPORTSWATCH

Tacurong bets rule Yonex regional

TEAM BATTLEDORE OF TACURONG CITY SWEPT THE BOYS AND GIRLS DOUBLES class of the Mayor Rodolfo Gantuangco Cup—the third stage of the Yonex-Sunrise Regional Championships—recently at the Space Shuttle Badminton Courts in Kidapawan City. Juanico Edmar and Paul de Vera started Tacurong's onslaught, beating the duo of Angelo Cortez and ER Estimo, 21-19, 19-21, 22-20, in the finals of the boys' 16 under division, before Herson Abalos and partner Ivan de Vera followed suit with a 21-18, 21-19 victory over Edgar Antonlin and Comrouge Bansuan of Cotabato City. Isabelle Umpa and Maureen Estandarte sustained Tacurong's fine showing, beating the duo of Aires Amor Montilla and Tim Andre of Davao City, 19-21, 21-19, 21-19, for the girls 12-under diadem. Kathleen Montilla and Donita Mendoza posted a 21-17, 18-21, 21-18 win against Stefeleine Estanderte in an all Tacurong-finale of the girls 16-under class of the 12-stage badminton tour organized by national coach Errol Chan.

ORETA BACKS NBC: National Basketball Conference president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla (second from left) expressed his gratitude to Malabon City Mayor Tito Oreta for hosting the NBC Juniors Cup set to start April 30 at the newly built Malabon Sports Center. With them are NBC secretary general Tito Palma (left) and Vice Mayor Arnold Vicencio.

PhilMasters Darts starts March 17

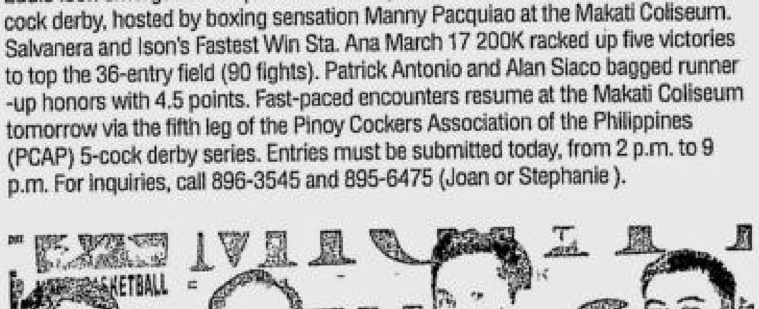
TOP-RANKED DARTERS ARVIE BRIONES AND ANN MADRID, BOTH FROM Baguio City, will lead a strong field of participants when the PhilMasters Darts Championship 2007 (PDC '07) unfolds at the Pearl Billiards and Darts Bar, Pearl Plaza Mall in Parañaque City on March 17 and 18. Lawyer Andrew Arrieta, PDC president, said events to be played are open doubles, classified 3-man team and the men and women open singles. The event will serve as a qualifier for the national eliminations for the RP darts team that will compete in the World Darts Federation-World Cup 2007 in September in Amsterdam," said Arrieta. Call DCP secretary general Steve Dorotheo at 0917-8161001.

Sagupaan cockfest at Pasay today

PASAY CITY COCKPIT PRESENTS EXCITING MATCH-UPS OF BIG-TIME cockers in today's staging of Sagupaan Special 4-cock derby. The first of more than 60 fights starts at 5 p.m. For the first time, the father-and-son team of *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio and Tony Antonio will host a big derby. Meanwhile, veteran derbyist Pepito Ngo will stage the annual Fatman 6-cock derby on March 12, 14 and 16 also at Pasay Cockpit. For an entry fee of P18,700, the guaranteed prize is P1.5 million. Prizes for "straight four" combo are also stake, said PCC pit manager Eric dela Rosa. Entries must be submitted on Sunday, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750. The NFGB National 8-bullstag derby unfolds on March 17. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

Longshot bet rules Pacman derby

AN UNHERALDED ENTRY FIELDED BY PARTNERS NELSON SALVANERA AND Eddie Ison emerged as surprise solo champion in last Monday's Super Pacman 5-cock derby, hosted by boxing sensation Manny Pacquiao at the Makati Coliseum. Salvanera and Ison's Fastest Win Sta. Ana March 17 200K racked up five victories to top the 36-entry field (90 fights). Patrick Antonio and Alan Siaco bagged runner-up honors with 4.5 points. Fast-paced encounters resume at the Makati Coliseum tomorrow via the fifth leg of the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) 5-cock derby series. Entries must be submitted today, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, call 896-3545 and 895-6475 (Joan or Stephanie).



MBT DIRECTOR: MBT Commissioner Nilo C. Fernandez welcomes newly appointed MBT director Alex Wang. With them is Denny Peralta, league director of the Alex Wang Cup. Games are held at the RTU gym in Mandaluyong.

Baguio hosts Tangkad tilt

BAGUIO—THE NORTH LUZON trophy is up next when the 2007 Cherifer Tangkad Sagad Basketball Tournament unwraps here at the Eastern College gym tomorrow and Sunday.

St. Louis Elementary School and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Montessori lead the fancied squads in the Adidas-supported event with Cordillera Career Development School, Philex Mines School and the Magsaysay Elementary School.

Barkeley School and the University of Baguio Elementary Department are expected to crowd the favorites for the title together with Quezon ES and Lucban ES.

Organizer Bernard Ocampo confirmed that 20 provincial and city schools had registered for the fourth leg of the nationwide Cherifer 5-on-5 hoopfest open for boys aged 12-under. The kickoff stage in Metro Manila was captured by Don Bosco Makati.

THE VICTORIOUS Faith-Tanauan City squad.

Spring Cooking Oil makes it 3 straight

SPRING COOKING OIL DUMPED UCM-Lyceum University, 81-73, Wednesday night to make it three in a row in the Picaa Open basketball tournament at the Lyceum gym.

Veteran Niño Marquez scattered 19 points while Mario Reyes and Rodel Mallari contributed 16 and 13 points, respectively, as Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla's Cooking Oil Masters moved closer to pacesetting Mail & More/Burger King (4-0).

Spring's coach Efren "Yong" Garcia praised his boys for their splendid performance.

CKP168 whipped Rusty Lopez, 62-51, in the other contest. With the win, CKP168 leveled its record at 1-1. Lyceum and Lopez suffered their second and third setbacks, respectively.

The Spring-UCM-Lyceum

Scores:

SPRING 81—Marquez 19, Reyes 16, Mallari 13, Regalado 9, Legaspi 8, Bolocon 7, Bamson 4, Munoz 3, Tojonera 2, Cenita 0, Cuenca 0

UCM-LYCEUM 73—Moreno 20, Larong 16, Rodriguez 13, Gutierrez 8, Balneg 6, Mendoza 3, Santos 3, Medina 2, Calimag 2, Realista 0, P. Tiongco 0, R. Tiongco 0

Quarters: 22-15, 43-30, 57-54, 81-73

PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER
Department of Agriculture
ISO 9001 2000 CERTIFIED

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Carabao Center, an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture, invites suppliers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

Package	Particulars	Amount
I	Artificial Insemination and Semen Processing Supplies	P1,624,794.40
II	Veterinary Drugs and Supplies	318,442.40
III	Laboratory and Chemical Supplies	469,575.35
IV	Tires	587,694.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents 2. Pre-bid Conference (PCC Headquarters and Gene Pool)	March 12-16, 2007 March 26, 2007 (2 p.m.)
3. Opening of Bids (PCC Headquarters and Gene Pool)	April 9, 2007 (2 p.m.)
4. Bid Evaluation	April 10-13, 2007
5. Post-qualification	April 16-20, 2007
6. Notice of Award	10 calendar days

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of one thousand pesos(P 1,000.00) to the Philippine Carabao Center Cashier or Manila Liaison Officer.

The Philippine Carabao Center assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) EULOGIO M. MONTEALTO
BAC Chairman

(PDI – March 9, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Center for Health Development - X
NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER
Capitol Compound, Cagayan de Oro City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER (NMMC), through the General Appropriations Act 2007 intends to apply the sum of Twenty Four Million Pesos (Php **24,000,000.00**) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments for the procurement of various Hospital Supplies. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Northern Mindanao Medical Center now invites Bids from eligible bidders for various Hospital Supplies, Delivery of the goods is required by April to December, 2007. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act." And is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Northern Mindanao Medical Center and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00AM to 5:00PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00). The method of payment will be through Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on **March 16, 2007 - 2:00 PM at NMMC Auditorium.**

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **9:00 AM of March 28, 2007.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash/Cashier's Check (One percent of the ABC) or Bank Guarantee (One and one-half percent of the ABC). Late Bids shall not be accepted

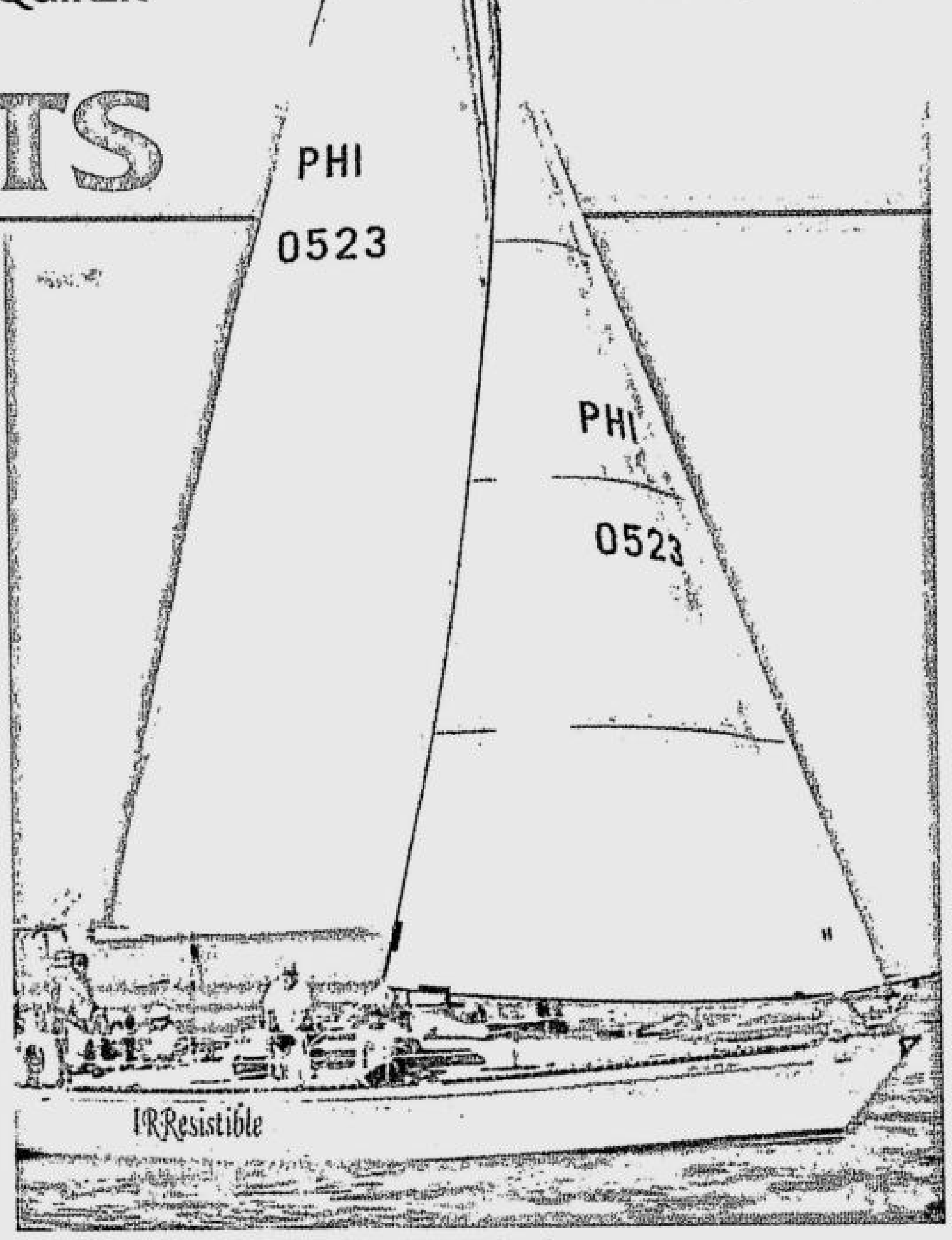
Bid opening shall be on **March 28, 2007, 9:00 AM at NMMC Auditorium.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER
JOSE C. CHAN, MD
Capitol Compound
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. No. 08822-726362
Fax number 08822-721794

(Sgd.) JOSE C. CHAN, MD
BAC Chairman

(PDI—March 9, 2007)



AFTER a stunning upset, Irresistible sails to another victory.

Irresistible still unbeaten

By Jasmine W. Payo

IRRESISTIBLE SUSTAINED ITS UNBEATEN run as the two-decade old local boat ruled its class in the American Express Race in Day 1 of the 15th President's Cup Regatta on Wednesday in Boracay.

Manned by a foreign crew led by Harry Taylor and DB Brizuela, Irresistible topped the 10-yacht fleet in the IRC 1 class with a corrected time of two hours, 54 minutes and 56 seconds.

The feat came just a day after Irresistible, an S & S 36 boat made in Bataan, surprisingly captured the overall crown and the IRC 1 division title in the preceding 5th e-Standard Insurance Manila to Boracay Race.

Although another Philippine boat came in eight minutes ahead of Irresistible, Selma Star skippered by Jesus Avecilla Jr. settled for a second-place finish with a corrected time of 3:03:22.

Solviento, a Banner 41 owned by Jose Aranaz, finished third at 3:06:21.

Participants located marked buoys to complete the point-to-point course. The corrected time, which is based on the race time and the boat's handicap, determined the final ranking.

Hong Kong's Jelik, among the champion yachts captained by tycoon Frank Pong, dominated the IRC Racing Class by completing the course first and still ruling with a corrected time of 4:04:50.

Defending champion Centennial of the Philippines docked in seventh in the nine-boat field, but moved up to the second spot with a final record of 4:12:01.

Sam Chan's Ffreefire of Hong Kong finished almost a minute shy of Centennial at 4:12:57 to claim the third spot.

MVP Castro jumps ship, joins Harbour Centre 5

A WEEK AFTER PHILIPPINE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY pulled out its seven players from Hapee Toothpaste, two of its standouts—Silver Cup Most Valuable Player Jason Castro and slotman Beau Belga—jumped ship to Harbour Centre.

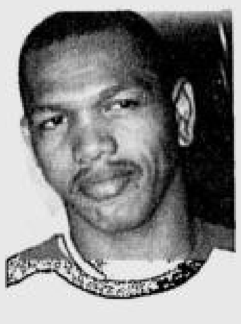
"Castro has blossomed into one of the league's versatile players," said Mikee Romero, team owner of Harbour Centre, which will sport the "Batang Pier" moniker next conference.

"He's one of the players we want, very exciting and hardworking," Romero added in a released statement.

Just last week, PCU officials said that the Dolphins recalled their seven players in the PBL to focus on the NCAA campaign.

The moved followed the pullout of other collegiate standouts by school teams San Beda and University of East.

Castro and Belga beef up an already formidable Harbour Centre roster that includes team star JC Intal, Finals MVP Chico Lanete, Finals Pivotal Player Jonathan Fernandez, Ryan Araña and Edwin Asoro.



CASTRO PDI PHOTO

Harbour Centre swept the Castro-led Hapee Teeth Masters, 3-0, in the Silver Cup finals last month.

"Our other players are excited to have Jason," said team manager Erick Arejola. "We now have a deeper bench, especially in the backcourt."

Harbour Centre, meanwhile, gave up Reed Juntilla, Bogart Raymundo and its first-round draft pick in the 2008 season to Hapee.

Castro, a crafty 5-foot-8 guard, actually debuted with Harbour Centre before PCU forged a partnership with Hapee three conferences ago.

The development further boosted Harbour Centre's bid for a third straight championship in the Unity Cup, which fires off on March 24. *Jasmine W. Payo*

RP golfers strike in Singapore

SINGAPORE—CHINA'S LIANG WEN-CHONG and Australia's Marcus Fraser fired bogey-free eight-under-par 64s to share a one-stroke lead after the first round of the Singapore Masters on Thursday.

Angelo Que shot a 66 to lead the Filipinos' charge. Frankie Miñoza and Tony Lascuna were also within striking distance following 69s.

Teeing off in one of the first groups on the less demanding Classic Course, the 28-year-old Liang reached the turn on three-under after a bogey-free 33, before storming ahead of the field with a run of five birdies over six holes.

Fraser started his round in the early afternoon and recorded four birdies on both the front and back nines to join Liang at the top of the leaderboard towards the end of the day.

India's Jyoti Randhawa, Japan's Shingo Katayama and Briton Barry Hume are all one shot behind the leaders at the $1.1 million co-sanctioned European and Asian Tour event.

The opening two rounds are split over two layouts at the Laguna National Golf Club before the field is reduced on Friday and the final 36 holes are played on the tougher Masters Course.

The leading 14 players completed their rounds on the Classic Course with England's Graeme Storm, Ireland's Peter Lawrie, Filipino Que, New Zealand's Mark Brown and Germany's Martin Kaymer sharing sixth place with six-under-par 66s.

The lowest round on the Masters Course was four-under 68 by a group of five players, including holder Mardan Mamat of Singapore, good enough for a share of 15th place. *Reuters*

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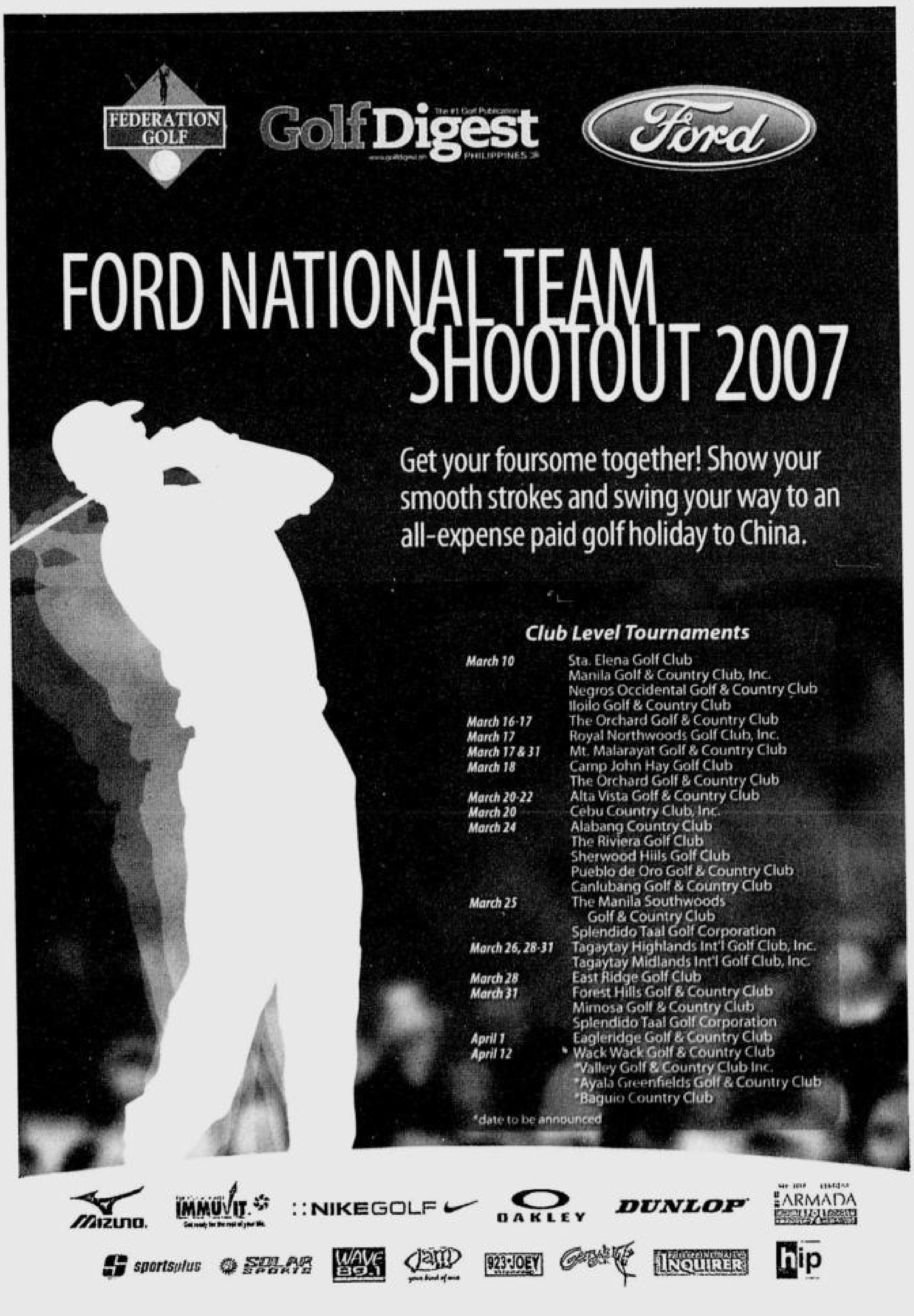
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March 17 Royal Northwoods Golf Club, Inc.
March 17 & 31 Mt. Malarayat Golf & Country Club
March 18 Camp John Hay Golf Club
The Orchard Golf & Country Club
March 20-22 Alta Vista Golf & Country Club
March 20 Cebu Country Club, Inc.
March 24 Alabang Country Club
The Riviera Golf Club
Sherwood Hills Golf Club
Pueblo de Oro Golf & Country Club
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March 25 The Manila Southwoods Golf & Country Club
Splendido Taal Golf Corporation
March 26, 28-31 Tagaytay Highlands Int'l Golf Club, Inc.
Tagaytay Midlands Int'l Golf Club, Inc.
March 28 East Ridge Golf Club
March 31 Forest Hills Golf & Country Club
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Splendido Taal Golf Corporation
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IN THIS ISSUE

- **BSP keeps policy** rates steady /B4
- **Make people feel** gains, donors urge RP /B8

SM
my career my choice

Ayala to put up ₱7.4-B hotel complex

Joint venture with Saudi firm to bring in Raffles brand

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST property firm will develop a a big portion of Ayala Center in Makati City into a luxury hotel complex in partnership with a world-renowned hotel and resort management firm.

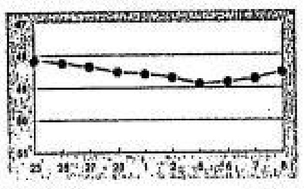
In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Ayala Land Inc. said it has signed an agreement to jointly develop a 7,377-square-meter property on the corner of Makati Avenue and Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road) with Dubai-based Kingdom Hotel Investments through a wholly owned subsidiary.

The total investment for the luxury hotel complex will reach $153 million, Ayala Land said. At existing exchange rates, the investment will cost about P7.4 billion—making it the single biggest hotel-related investment in the country's history.

"The development will comprise a

AYALA/ B4

INDICATORS



FEBRUARY MARCH

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As of 5 p.m., March 7, 2007

Shares close lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 1.14-PERCENT lower yesterday as the market consolidated amid persistent concerns over the outlook for global equity markets after the past week's turmoil, dealers said.

SHARES/ B4

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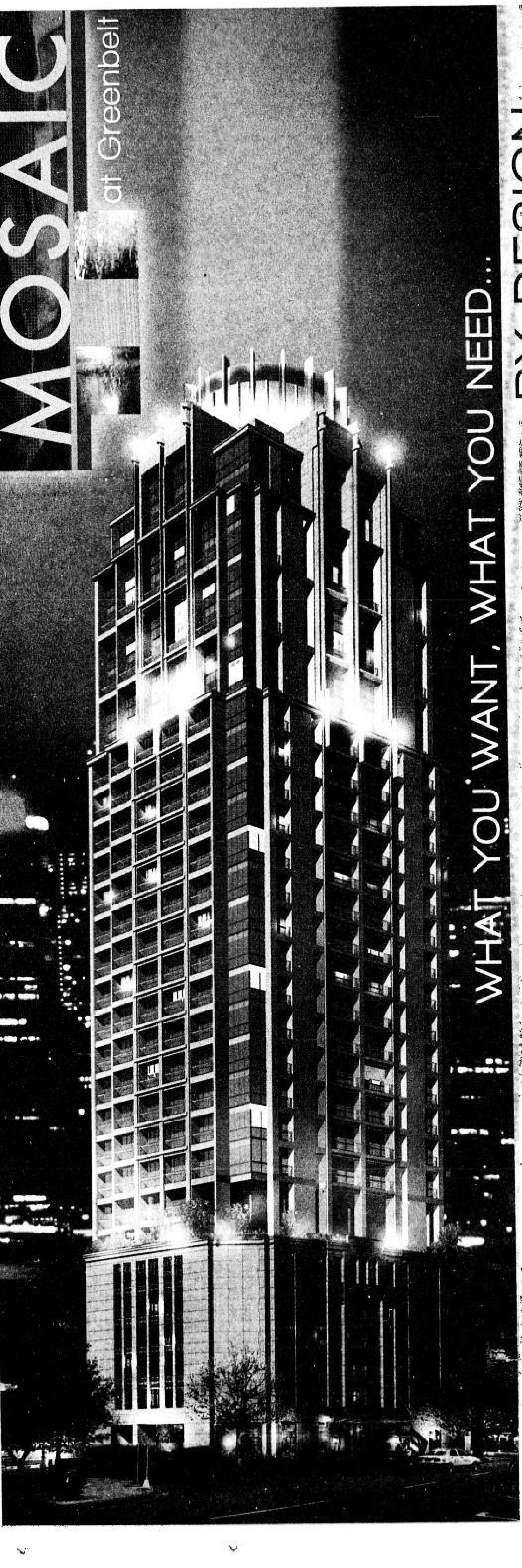

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Republic of the Philippines
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Department of Trade and Industry

WARNING TO THE PUBLIC

The Department of Trade and Industry's Bureau of Product Standards (DTI-BPS) warns the public on the proliferation of **uncertified 2.7 kg "Sure Gas" brand LPG cylinders** in the market.

Based on the report received from Summit Metal Works Industries, Inc., the licensed manufacturer of "Sure Gas" LPG cylinders, these uncertified 2.7 kg "Sure Gas" brand LPG cylinders are not manufactured by their company. The Bureau found that the said brand of LPG cylinders are not stamped with the tare weight, serial number, date of test, and the Philippine Standard (PS) mark, which are required markings based on the Philippine National Standard (PNS) on LPG cylinders. Moreover, the word "PHIL" marked on the cylinder is misspelled as "PHTL".

The DTI-BPS, under its Product Certification Scheme, only allows 2.7 kg as well as 5 kg, 7 kg, 11 kg, 22 kg and 50 kg LPG cylinders that have passed the tests and inspection based on the safety requirements of the PNS to be sold in the market. The LPG cylinders that have passed the standard requirements bear the Philippine Standard (PS) and Import Commodity Clearance (ICC) marks to ensure product reliability and safety.

Manufacturers, importers, distributors, dealers, wholesalers and retailers found to be in possession and selling these uncertified and substandard LPG cylinders are liable under Executive Order No. 913 and Republic Act 7394 or the Consumer Act of the Philippines with a fine of P300,000 per violation, without prejudice to the filing of criminal or civil actions against violators.

Should you have information that would lead to the apprehension of violators, please call DTI-BPS at 751-3130.

This notice is a cooperation between the DTI-Bureau of Product Standards and Summit Metal Works Industries, Inc.

Women and water

COMMENTARY

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

MARCH IS WOMEN'S MONTH. TODAY, we turn our attention to the important role women play in the issue of water.

Last week, we wrote about how the water crisis has reached global proportions. Also last week, the global warming film by former US Vice President Alan Gore, "The Inconvenient Truth," won an Academy Award for best documentary. In that film, the important role of water in the world's now precarious future was highlighted. If wars are fought because of oil, wars may well be fought over scarce water in the future.

A World Heath Organization (WHO) study showed that for every dollar spent on water, more than $7 (including work time and health care savings) would be returned. But if agriculture, which uses 70 percent of water supply, does not play an important role in helping address the water crisis, these returns would be minimized.

We wish to show that if women do not play an active role, there will be water projects where all of the expected returns will disappear and the investment totally wasted.

Global picture

The phenomenon of water projects failing because of women's non-involvement is documented worldwide.

In a study commissioned by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (Jica) on "Gender Issues in Water and Sanitation Projects in Mali," it stated: "Management of the wells was handed over to male community leaders without consulting women in the planning of the new resource or its continued management… The systems and equipment set up were impractical for women… As a result, at peak times, women dismantled the equipment and went back to their old ways of collecting water. Moreover, the men who were involved as care takers, failed to adequately fulfill their roles since water and sanitation were seen as a woman's domain."

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has documented several similar cases in various countries. Its conclusion in its excellent guide to water management (http://www.adb.org) was "Women and men differ in their roles, needs and perceptions regarding water supply and sanitation. Failure to consider these differences can cause poor performance or even suspension of their projects."

A holistic approach

There have been projects that have taken too much of an opposite view by involving only women in certain water management aspects. A United Nations Development Program team monitored a project in Mindanao which attempted to have women-farmers monitor soil loss from the use of water. Its finding: "The attempts did not succeed. An analysis conducted in the project reveals that women were more interested in health issues than soil loss, and therefore were reluctant to participate in the monitoring process."

The answer then is to include both women and men in every stage of the planning, implementation and monitoring process. World Bank Discussion Series No. 37 documents the success of this approach in a Philippine communal irrigation project. This included recruitment of female community organizers, ensuring women as well as men participation in water user associations, and supporting women in taking up leadership roles. The results were as follow: "The project exceeded its targets for increased paddy fields. Women's involvement made payment of fees more consistent, since it was the women who, in this context, controlled the family finances."

Philippine situation

In the National Rural Women's Congress (an Alyansa Agrikultura member) annual meeting I attended, 200 rural women leaders from across the country agreed that there was an urgent need for women's involvement in water projects.

Agnes Balota, currently with the DILG-GTZ Water Program, summarized the Congress' conclusion: "Women, as the primary collectors of water, are currently not recognized stakeholders in water supply projects. Government water supply and sanitation programs either target existing organizations in the community where female participation is typically marginalized, or organized water users' associations that seldom recognize the key role women play in household water management. Increased women's participation in such projects, with appropriate capability building activities, is one way to ensure the sustainability of the operation of the water system. This is because women are the usual users of such facilities."

Thankfully, the project Balota now coordinates, "The Water Supply Sector Road Map" led by the Neda and the National Water Resources Board, is helping address this issue. You may call Balota at 02-9271875.

Conclusion

With all the documented information available to us, it is imperative that women's participation in all aspects addressing the water crisis should be implemented and institutionalized. Prior to the next National Mutisectoral Water Conference, it is recommended that the two sectors of agriculture and women, which have not been given sufficient importance, conduct separate focused meetings in preparation for this conference. It is hoped that during this Women's Month of March, the crucial link between women and water will be institutionalized and used in all future water management projects.

(The author is Agriwatch chair, former undersecretary of trade and of agriculture. For inquiries and suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02- 8522112.)

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Risks of new Asian crisis low

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES AND OTHER ASIAN countries devastated by the Asian currency turmoil 10 years ago now face little risk of succumbing to a similar contagion due to sound structural reforms implemented over the years, a London-based UBS economist said.

In a briefing, UBS senior economist and managing director Peter Donovan said the structures that were put in place in Asia have strengthened the economic fundamentals of these countries and allowed them to adopt a more flexible exchange rate system.

The visiting economist said global investors and fund managers have likewise significantly improved their risk assessment capabilities.

"We've seen a more appropriate process of investment in the last 10 years. The misdirection of investments, which were misplaced in some countries, have now been corrected and have now been built on more solid foundations," Donovan said.

For instance, he said investments were now going into areas where they earn reasonable returns and not in much-hyped areas.

During the currency crisis of 1997, for instance, there was a lot of speculative activity on the property market.

"People are taking a calmer and more rational approach to investments. The assessment of risks on local companies in the region and the Philippines I think is a lot better than it was 10 years ago," Donovan said. "For instance, we're not seeing people borrowing in foreign currency without any kind of hedging."

"As a result of these, the risks of a contagion process in the way that we had in 1997 is a lot less," he said.

The economist said investors have likewise learned their lesson from the past crisis and were now appropriately evaluating each country on the basis of individual merits, as indicated by how the markets have reacted to a recent political turmoil in Thailand and the economic jitters in Indonesia.

When the markets became jittery over Thailand or Indonesia, he said there was no region-wide selling.

"In the aftermath of the situation of 10 years ago, investors have judged Asian economies on their individual merit. They don't sell or buy Asia as a block," he said.

Donovan said the Asian economies had also properly harnessed foreign inflows returning to the region after the crisis.

"The economies, when they do receive capital flows, they do so for the right reason—that the economy will benefit from an international involvement and that its fundamentals are strong," he said.

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Managed Fund - Peso	1.82897	1.88850
Growth Fund - Peso	1.63340	1.80140
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.3663	1.3742

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

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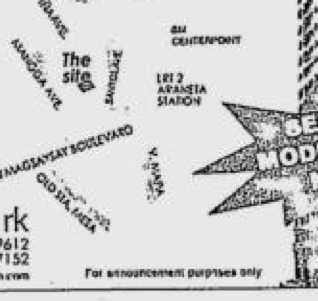

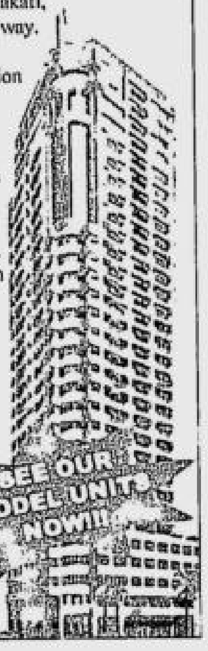
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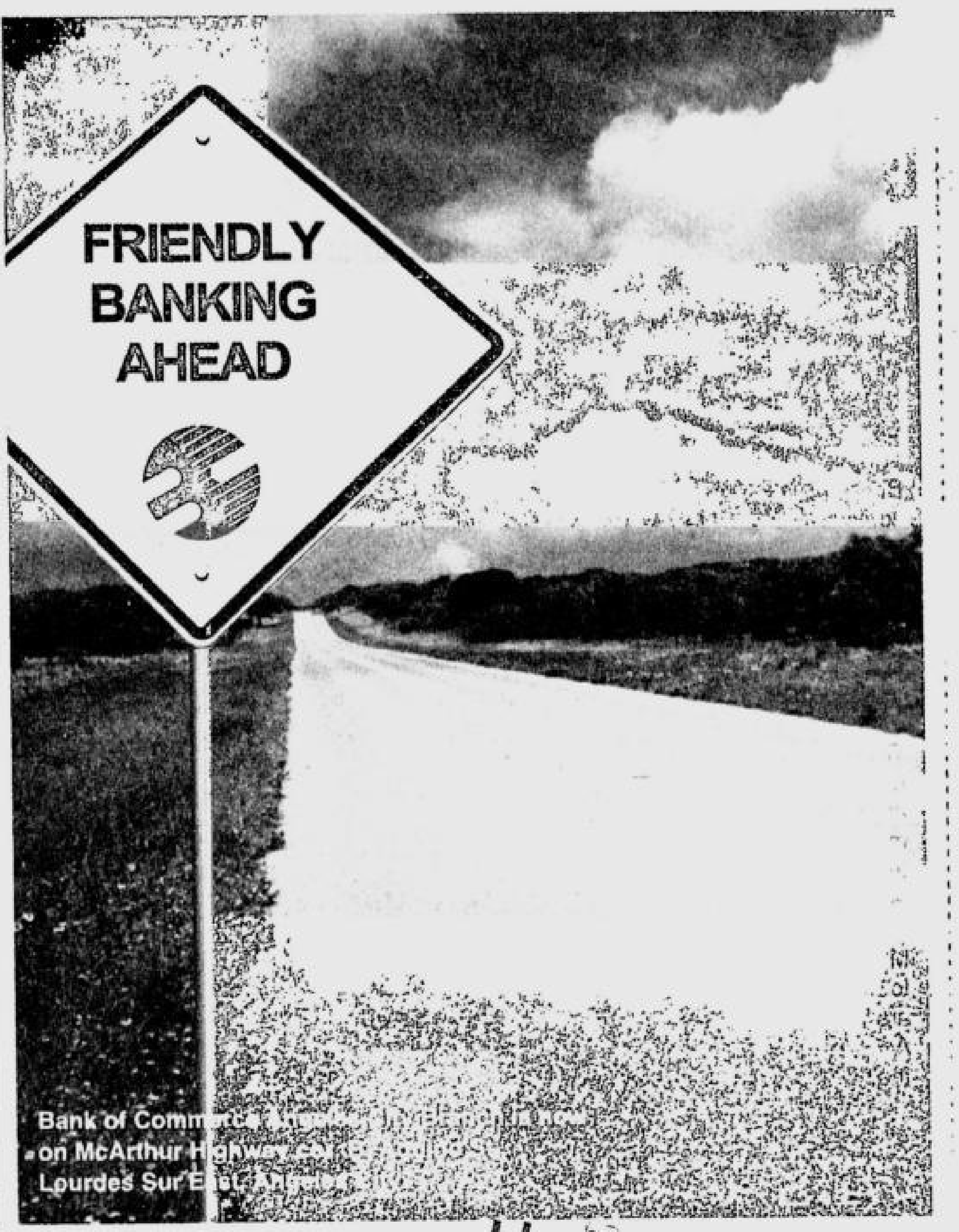

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BSP keeps policy rates steady

Growth in liquidity may pose threat

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MONETARY BOARD YESTERDAY OPTED to keep the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' overnight policy interest rates unchanged for the 17th straight month while maintaining a three-tiered rate scheme on banks' overnight money.

The overnight borrowing rate was kept at 7.5 percent and the overnight lending rate at 9.75 percent.

While the benign outlook on inflation—following the decline in the February inflation rate to a four-year low of 2.6 percent—allows more room for monetary easing, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the strong growth in domestic liquidity fueled by strong foreign inflows remained a risk.

"We continue to see a favorable inflation environment for the rest of the year. However, the MB noted that there are important reasons to maintain the current monetary policy. One is the growth in domestic liquidity, which can persist especially with the balance of payment surplus," Tetangco said in a press briefing after the monthly meeting of the board.

"It's not an immediate threat, but at the current growth rate, domestic liquidity needs to be monitored closely. If this persists, you may see inflationary pressures down the road," he said.

Strong inflows of foreign money further boosted the annual growth in broad money supply (m3) to 22.8 percent in January, up from 21.4 percent in December.

Domestic liquidity or m3 is the broadest measure of money and is used to estimate the entire supply of money within an economy. It includes money in circulation, demand deposits, money market funds and short-term repurchase agreements.

In November, the BSP revived the tiering system, under which the central bank pays a lower rate to short-term money placed by banks in excess of certain threshold levels. This is aimed at encouraging banks to lessen funds parked with the BSP and lend more.

Only the first P5 billion of money deposited with the BSP gets paid with a 7.5 percent overnight borrowing rate. The next P5 billion yields 200 basis points less (5.5 percent) and placements in excess of P10 billion yields 400 basis points (3.5 percent).

CORPORATE ROUNDUP

Anglo obtains P250-M loan

ANGLO Philippine Holdings Corp. has obtained a P250-million short-term loan line from Land Bank of the Philippines and East West Bank.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Anglo said the funds would be used as its equity contribution to the Trinoma project of the Ayala-led North Triangle Depot Commercial Corp. and as working capital.

APHC's property investments include a 15.79-percent equity in NTDCC and 5 percent in Edsa Properties Holdings. The company also has investments in mass transport (18.6 percent in MRT Holdings) and natural resources development (7.76-percent stake in Atlas Consolidated Mining).

In the meantime, Atlas' subsidiary, Berong Nickel, recently shipped its second batch of nickel ore to China.

SPi ranks 4th in BPO survey

SPI, a business process outsourcing service provider ePLDT, ranked fourth in the "Top 10 Best-Performing BPO Providers" category of the 2007 Global Services 100 survey, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. said in a statement.

It also placed fifth in the "Top 10 Leaders in Human Capital Development" category.

In 2006, SPi was ninth among the top ten BPO providers and 10th in human capital development.

"This reflects the high caliber of service we routinely offer our clients as well as our ongoing investment in the development of our people," SPi president and CEO Ernest Cu said in a statement.

The Global Services 100 list is a compilation of the world's most innovative service providers. The survey was conducted by Global Services magazine, a publication of US-based CMP Media LLC, and management consulting firm neoIT.

SPi was chosen from among 150 competing firms.

Riza Olchondra

SubicTel eyes capacity hike

BROADBAND INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER Subic Telecommunications Co. Inc. (SubicTel), a subsidiary of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., said it was planning to increase its capacity by up to 150 percent to meet customer demand in Subic Freeport.

The firm has so far invested P1 billion since 1994 in putting in place and operating the telecommunications infrastructure in Subic Bay Freeport.

Riza Olchondra

FirstGen profit up 6% to $92M

By Abigail L. Ho

LOPEZ-OWNED FIRST GEN CORP. POSTED A 6-percent increase in its net income last year to $92 million from year-ago's $87 million.

The company's consolidated revenue jumped 20 percent to $992 million last year from $828 million in 2005.

In a briefing yesterday, First Gen vice chair and chief executive Peter Garrucho Jr. said the company's acquisition of the 112-megawatt (MW) Pantabangan-Masiway hydropower complex helped boost the firm's bottom line.

Garrucho said the Pantabangan-Masiway facilities , which were taken over by First Gen only in November last year, provided the Lopez firm with immediate earnings of $6 million.

First Gen bought the Pantabangan-Masiway plant package from Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. for $129 million, edging out sole competitor SN Aboitiz Power Inc. which offered $112 million.

Garrucho said FirstGen's 1,000-MW Sta. Rita and 500-MW San Lorenzo gas-fired power plants also enjoyed "the highest dispatch levels among all power plants in the Luzon grid," resulting in an $84-million contribution to the firm's bottom line.

Both plants posted 81-percent dispatch rates last year, up from 77 percent in 2005.

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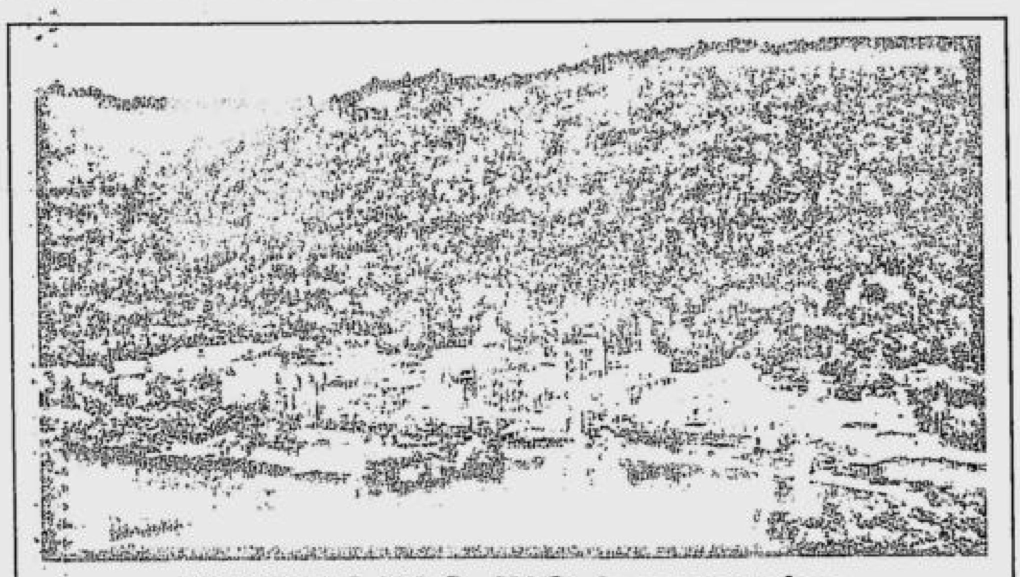


PILIPINAS KAO, INC. Inaugurates
P4 Billion High Purity Fatty Alcohol Plant

Today, March 9, 2007, marks another milestone in the 28-years history of Japanese-owned Pilipinas Kao, Inc., as it celebrates the Inauguration of its High Purity Fatty Alcohol (HPFA) Plant in Jasaan, Misamis Oriental, Northern Mindanao. Gracing the event as the guest of honor is Hon. Lilia B. De Lima, Director General of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA).

The HPFA Plant is a P4 Billion investment of Pilipinas Kao, Inc. which begun construction in July 2005. The project, which installed a new technology for high purity fatty alcohol was approved on a pioneer status by PEZA, entitling it a set of incentives including six years of income tax holiday.

This new facility will have an annual production capacity of 100,000 tons and is expected to generate US$100 million in annual export earnings. 90 percent of its production will be geared for the export market and only 10 percent for domestic.

Fatty alcohol is one of Kao Corporation's core businesses in the Philippines and in Malaysia. Pilipinas Kao, Inc. has decided to raise its capacity as most countries are experiencing a supply shortage for the raw materials used in the manufacture of detergents due to the recent upswing in demand mainly in Southeast Asia and China. With total annual production capacity raised to 300,000 tons through the two locations, Kao Corporation has now established a more stable supply chain system of fatty alcohol and has reinforced its role as a major player in the global market.

Pilipinas Kao, a subsidiary of Kao Corporation of Japan, has been in operation since 1979, supplying high quality, biodegradable chemical products from coconut oil in both the local and international markets. Pilipinas Kao operates an oleochemical manufacturing complex in the Jasaan Misamis Oriental Ecozone where high value-added products such as high purity single cut fatty alcohols, refined glycerine, tertiary amines are produced. These environment-friendly oleochemicals are used for various applications such as the base material for the manufacture of cosmetics, shampoos, toothpaste, pharmaceuticals, industrial and household detergents, emulsifiers, additives, and agricultural chemical products.

The completion of this HPFA project is another major step forward for Pilipinas Kao in its thrust to become a dominant player in the export market. This is a big boosts not only for the company but also for the country's coconut and export industries as well.

Ayala . . .

From page B1

300-room Fairmont Hotel, a 30-suite Raffles Hotel, and 189 Raffles-branded private residences," the firm added.

Ayala Land said the objectives of Kingdom Hotel Investments were "to develop, acquire, finance and actively manage high quality hotels in key city and resort destinations in the Middle East, Africa and in Asia and Eastern Europe."

The company is headquartered in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates. Saudi Prince Alwaleed bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Alsaud is the founder, majority shareholder, and chair of Kingdom Hotel Investments.

Prince Alwaleed has real estate ownership interests in hotels and resorts throughout the world and has significant equity investments in leading international hotel management companies, among them Four Seasons Hotel and Resorts, Fairmont Hotels and Resorts, Raffles Hotels and Resorts, and Mövenpick Hotels and Resorts.

"Due to its industry focus and diversified investment portfolio, Kingdom Hotel Investments is a prominent hospitality-related private equity company with an underlying portfolio consisting of 33 hotels, of which 19 are operational and 14 under development," Ayala Land said.

Make . . .

From page B8

Joachim von Amsberg said the Philippines had begun to build a track record of fiscal credibility, which was valued highly by the financial markets.

"Two or three years ago, the question was how to fend off the threat of a fiscal and economic crisis that would have had a devastating impact on the Filipino people ... Today, the question is how to spread the benefits of fiscal reforms and of growth to the majority of Filipino people," Von Amsberg said.

He said the global donor community would tackle four important topics during the two-day forum:

- How to sustain and deepen fiscal reforms and improve the efficiency and governance of public spending.
- How to increase the country's competitiveness.
- How to nurture growth at the regional and local levels.
- How to share the benefits of growth through investment in people and social policies.

He said international development partners were delivering on their commitment to increase their investments in the Philippines.

In a speech delivered by Trade Secretary Peter Favila on behalf of Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, the donor community was requested to invest in high-impact projects intended to provide jobs and improve the lives of the Filipino people.

The projects include roads, railways, bridges, irrigation and power.

Shares . . .

From page B1

Investors also took a step back and chose to wait for the outcome of the central bank's policy meeting later in the day.

The composite index fell 34.89 points to 3,028.37, after trading between 3,017.31 and 3,063.72.

Losers outnumbered gainers 77 to 32 with 44 stocks unchanged.

Turnover was 9.9 billion shares worth P4 billion.

AFP

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of March 8, 2007)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	11	11.25	10.75	10.75	145,300
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	54.5	55.5	54	55	2,234,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	65	65	63.5	64	4,492,600
China Banking Corp.	830	840	830	840	9,850
Citystate Savings Bank	20	20	20	20	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.49	1,350,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	95	98	95	95	16,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	59	59	58	58	1,986,100
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	50	50	50	50	500
Philippine National Bank	48	48	47	47	47,300
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	39	39	38.5	39	77,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	58	58	57	57.5	45,400
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
ATR Kimeng Fin. Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	8,000
Bankard Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.66	0.66	40,000
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	6	6.2	6	6.2	155,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	6	6	6	6	3,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	37.5	37.5	37.5	37.5	20,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	299,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	700	705	690	690	3,360
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2040	2070	2040	2070	690
Ivantage Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.46	1.46	633,000
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
PNOC Energy Dev. Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.4	5.6	52,880,000
First Gen Corp.	51	51	51	51	509,700
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	70	71.5	70	70	509,300
Manila Electric Co. A	66.5	68.5	66.5	67.5	220,000
Manila Electric Co. B	66.5	69	66.5	68	1,670,400
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.2	9.2	9	9	1,345,000
Petron Corp.	4.3	4.35	4.25	4.3	9,995,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.34	1.34	1.3	1.3	31,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.5	3.55	3.5	3.55	150,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26	26	25	25	222,300
Jollibee Foods Corp.	47.5	49.5	47.5	48.5	276,400
RFM Corp.	1.22	1.34	1.22	1.34	489,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	119,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.37	0.37	130,000
San Miguel Corp. A	62.5	62.5	62	62.5	30,600
San Miguel Corp. B	71	71	69.5	70	291,100
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	24,000
Alliance Tuna Int'l. Inc.	2	2.04	1.92	1.96	2,381,000
Universal Robina Corp.	18	18	17.75	17.75	233,800
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.46	15,542,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	4.45	4.45	4.2	4.25	2,682,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.5	8.5	8.2	8.3	742,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5.7	6.5	5.7	6	124,000
Republic Cement Corp.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	291,000
CHEMICALS					
Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.8	4.85	4.75	4.8	612,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.32	0.33	18,930,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	5,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.01	51,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	9,000,000
Ayala Corp.	555	555	545	550	127,730
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.73	0.73	200,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	8	8	7.9	7.9	5,057,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.3	5.3	4.8	5.3	19,131,000
AJO.Net Holdings Inc.	0.06	0.065	0.06	0.065	29,900,000
A. Soriano Corp.	3.1	3.15	3.05	3.15	534,000
APC Group Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.31	0.31	10,610,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	166,500,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.46	1.48	12,576,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	31,000
ATN Holdings Inc. B	2	2	2	2	60,000
PAL Holdings Inc.	3.65	3.65	3.5	3.5	87,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	5	5.2	5	5	762,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.15	3.25	3.15	3.15	32,609,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.7	6.3	6.5	3,154,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	4.9	4.9	4.75	4.75	940,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	1	1	1	1	100,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	12.5	13	12.5	12.75	2,080,100
Keppel Holdings	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	3,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	8.2	8.2	7	7.7	945,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.76	1.8	1.64	1.64	717,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	2,670,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.68	0.72	0.68	0.72	740,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.195	0.195	0.185	0.185	4,060,000
SM Investments Corp.	350	355	340	350	905,560
South China Resources Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	1,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	5,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.15	610,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	16	16	15.75	15.75	15,696,000
Belle Corp.	1.3	1.32	1.28	1.28	17,787,000
A. Brown Co. Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.16	1.16	634,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	200,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.65	3.7	271,000
C&P Homes Inc.	2.46	2.7	2.46	2.5	1,074,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	57,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	50,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.72	0.74	38,200,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.8	1.78	1.8	1,389,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.0675	0.0675	0.065	0.065	4,300,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.54	1.54	1.5	1.54	25,835,000
Interport Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	200,000
Interport Res. B	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.01	1,600,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.49	0.49	0.46	0.46	1,370,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.8	0.82	2,720,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	700,000
Megaworld Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.75	2.75	51,691,000
Metro Pacific Inv. Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.3	24,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.79	0.8	0.71	0.73	6,910,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	180,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	19	19	18.75	18.75	6,107,400
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.61	0.61	0.58	0.58	19,860,000
SM Development Corp.	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	994,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.5	11.5	11.25	11.5	5,371,600
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.66	0.66	0.6	0.65	1,080,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.13	0.14	13,730,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22.75	22.75	22.75	22.75	91,300
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.64	1.66	6,132,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1360	1360	1325	1330	26,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	6.7	6.7	6.5	6.7	2,239,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2360	2360	2280	2300	328,350
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	5,250,000
Diversified Fin. Network	4	4.1	4	4.1	79,000
Imperial Res.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	4,000,000
Ionics Inc.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	50,000
Ipvg Corp.	5.3	5.4	5	5.3	1,105,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	1,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	1,700,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.7	1.7	979,000
Transpacific Broadband	2.06	2.1	2	2.02	422,000
Philweb Corp.	0.044	0.044	0.041	0.043	127,000,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	28	28.5	27	28	4,264,200
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	3.15	3.3	3.15	3.25	7,535,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.86	0.86	220,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	13,000
Ipeople Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	20,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.55	1,887,000
Paxys Inc.	24.5	24.5	24.25	24.5	98,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	5.2	5.2	4.9	5	550,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	5.2	5.2	5	5	252,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	682,400,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.8	8.8	8.5	8.6	878,000
Benguet Corp. A	11	11	11	11	112,400
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	6,000
Geograce Res. Phil., Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.38	1.44	119,903,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.29	0.29	0.27	0.28	15,610,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.32	0.33	0.31	0.31	11,610,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.029	0.029	0.027	0.028	178,700,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.033	0.033	0.032	0.032	52,600,000
Omico Corp.	0.021	0.022	0.02	0.021	5,619,100,000
Philex Mining Corp.	4	4	3.85	3.9	3,549,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	11,600
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.69	0.72	0.68	0.68	610,000
Vulcan Ind'l	1.14	1.16	1.08	1.08	3,933,000
OIL					
Basic Petroleum Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	2,020,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.014	0.014	0.012	0.013	33,700,000
The Philodrill Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	418,200,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	15,000

CURRENCIES

March 8, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.758668	1.000000	48.7290
Japan	Yen	0.006536	0.008615	0.4198
United Kingdom	Pound	1.466657	1.933200	94.2029
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.097050	0.127921	6.2335
Switzerland	Franc	0.623392	0.821693	40.0403
Canada	Dollar	0.643921	0.848752	41.3588
Singapore	Dollar	0.497194	0.655351	31.9346
Australia	Dollar	0.588708	0.775976	37.8125
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.012488	2.652661	129.2615
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.202392	0.266773	12.9996
Brunei	Dollar	0.495570	0.653211	31.8303
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000083	0.000109	0.0053
Thailand	Baht	0.023416	0.030864	1.5040
UAE	Dirham	0.206620	0.272346	13.2711
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.318100	64.2297
Korea	Won	0.000800	0.001055	0.0514
China	Yuan**	0.098019	0.129199	6.2957
Argentina	Peso	0.244495	0.322269	15.7038
Brazil	Real	0.359014	0.473216	23.0593
Denmark	Kroner	0.134299	0.177019	8.6260
India	Rupee	0.017172	0.022635	1.1030
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216206	0.284981	13.8868
Mexico	New Peso	0.067886	0.089481	4.3603
New Zealand	Dollar	0.518109	0.682920	33.2780
Norway	Kroner	0.122693	0.161721	7.8805
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012494	0.016469	0.8025
South Africa	Rand	0.102492	0.135095	6.5830
Sweden	Kroner	0.107825	0.142124	6.9256
Syria	Pound	0.014615	0.019264	0.9387
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023011	0.030331	1.4780
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000354	0.000466	0.0227

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY Time—March 7, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.
** Asian time closing rate as of March 7, 2007

PHILAM LIFE

53 and still growing

Built with a foundation of knowledge and experience

Energy, Passion and Focus are the words most commonly used when people describe their experience with Lulu del Mundo, Philamlife's 1st lady Agency Manager. For more than five decades now, she has inspired people to do more than they ever dreamed they could. She has in her hands the cumulative expertise of years of experience and hard work in the field of agency management.

If there is any one "secret" to an enduring great organization, it is the ability to manage continuity and change. Through the years, Lulu del Mundo has set a high standard of values and performance that her associates feel compelled to live up to. Together, they display a remarkable resiliency, an ability to bounce back from adversity and a powerful drive for progress that enables them to change and adapt without compromising their cherished core ideals. Like a persistent and incurable epidemic, their desire for progress can never be satisfied under any conditions, even if the agency succeeds enormously. As Lulu would oftentimes tell her associates, "We can always do better; we can always go further; we can always find new opportunities."

The Del Mundo Associates focus primarily on providing quality service to clients, realizing that "customer delight" is the key to nurturing relationships. Success comes not so much as the end goal, but as a residual result of relentlessly asking the question, "how can we improve ourselves to better serve our clients?" By seriously understanding their purpose, Lulu and her team strive to develop their potentials, constantly focusing on becoming well-equipped and competent financial advisors.

ASSOCIATES OF THE YEAR

Lourdes Del Mundo, LUTCF
Top Agency Manager

Nilda Uy
Top Unit Manager

INTERNATIONAL AWARDEES

Premier AGENT'S CLUB

Lourdes Del Mundo, LUTCF
Platinum

Eden Jalosjos
Platinum
International Quality Award

Nilda Uy
Platinum

Ma. Antonietta Del Mundo, FLMI
Gold

Luzviminda Moreno
Gold

Ro[illegible]
International Quality Award

The Million Dollar Round Table

Ma. Elena Asturias
Life and 14 Years Qualifying Member

Lucila Kierulf

Nilda Uy

Lourdes Del Mundo, LUTCF

Ma. Antonietta Del Mundo, FLMI

Eden Jalosjos

Luisito Laudico, LUTCF

Nancy Uy

Renato Cuisia

Domingo Reyes

NATIONAL AWARDEES

Ma. Elena Asturias
President's Circle, Founder's Circle
President's Cabinet (Unit)

Lourdes Del Mundo, LUTCF
President's Circle, Founder's Circle
President's Cabinet (Unit), Chairman's Cabinet (Unit)
President's Cabinet (Agency), Founder's Cabinet (Agency)

Domingo Reyes
President's Circle
Chairman's Board

Nilda Uy
President's Circle, Founder's Circle
President's Cabinet (Unit)
Chairman's Cabinet (Unit)

Eden Jalosjos
President's Circle
Chairman's Board

Lucila Kierulf
President's Circle
Founder's Circle

Ma. Antonietta Del Mundo, FLMI
President's Circle

Nancy Uy
President's Circle

Anunciacion Birog
President's Circle
Founder's Circle

Luzviminda Moreno
President's Circle

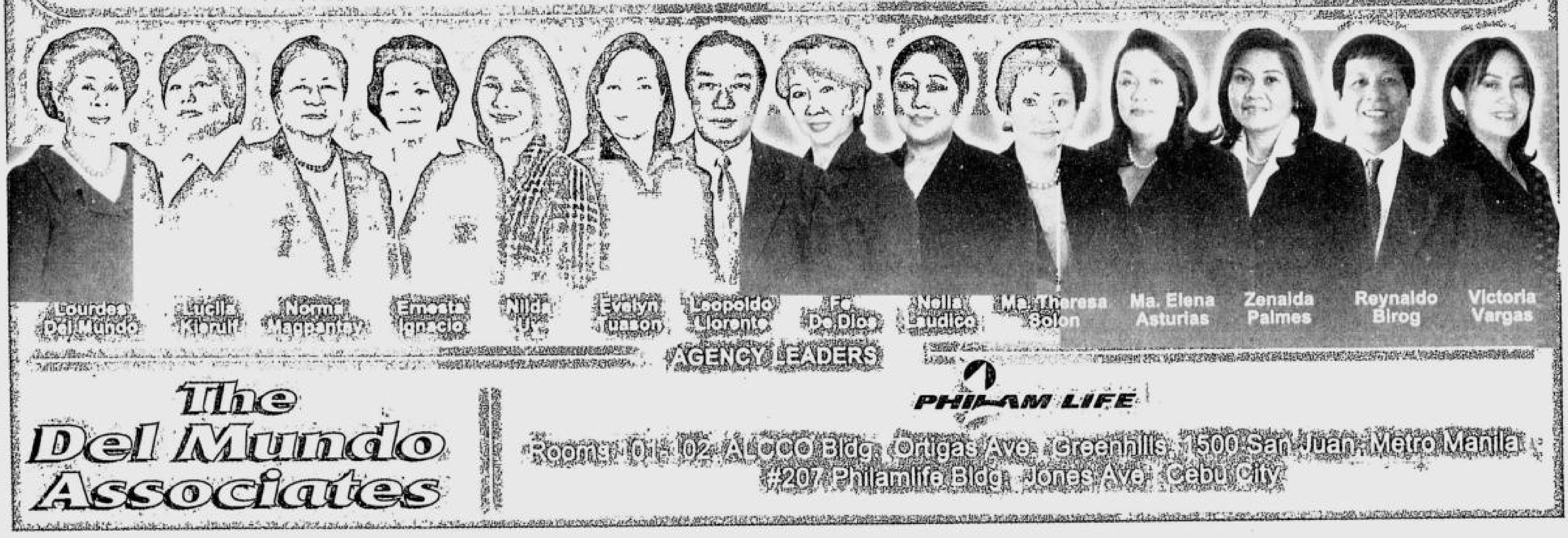
Salvacion Contreras
President's Circle

Mary Grace Silva
President's Circle

Ma. Theresa Solon
President's Circle
Founder's Circle

Rosanna Uy
President's Circle

Luisito Laudico, LUTCF
President's Circle



Lourdes Del Mundo

Lucila Kierulf

Norma Magpantay

Ernesta Ignacio

Nilda Uy

Evelyn Juason

Leopoldo Llorente

Fe De Dios

Nella Laudico

Ma. Theresa Solon

Ma. Elena Asturias

Zenaida Palmes

Reynaldo Birog

Victoria Vargas

AGENCY LEADERS

The Del Mundo Associates

PHILAM LIFE

Rooms 101-102 ALCCO Bldg. Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, 1500 San Juan, Metro Manila
#207 Philamlife Bldg. Jones Ave., Cebu City

PHILAM LIFE

53 and still growing

Built with a foundation of knowledge and experience

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Top Agency Manager
Nilda Uy
Top Unit Manager

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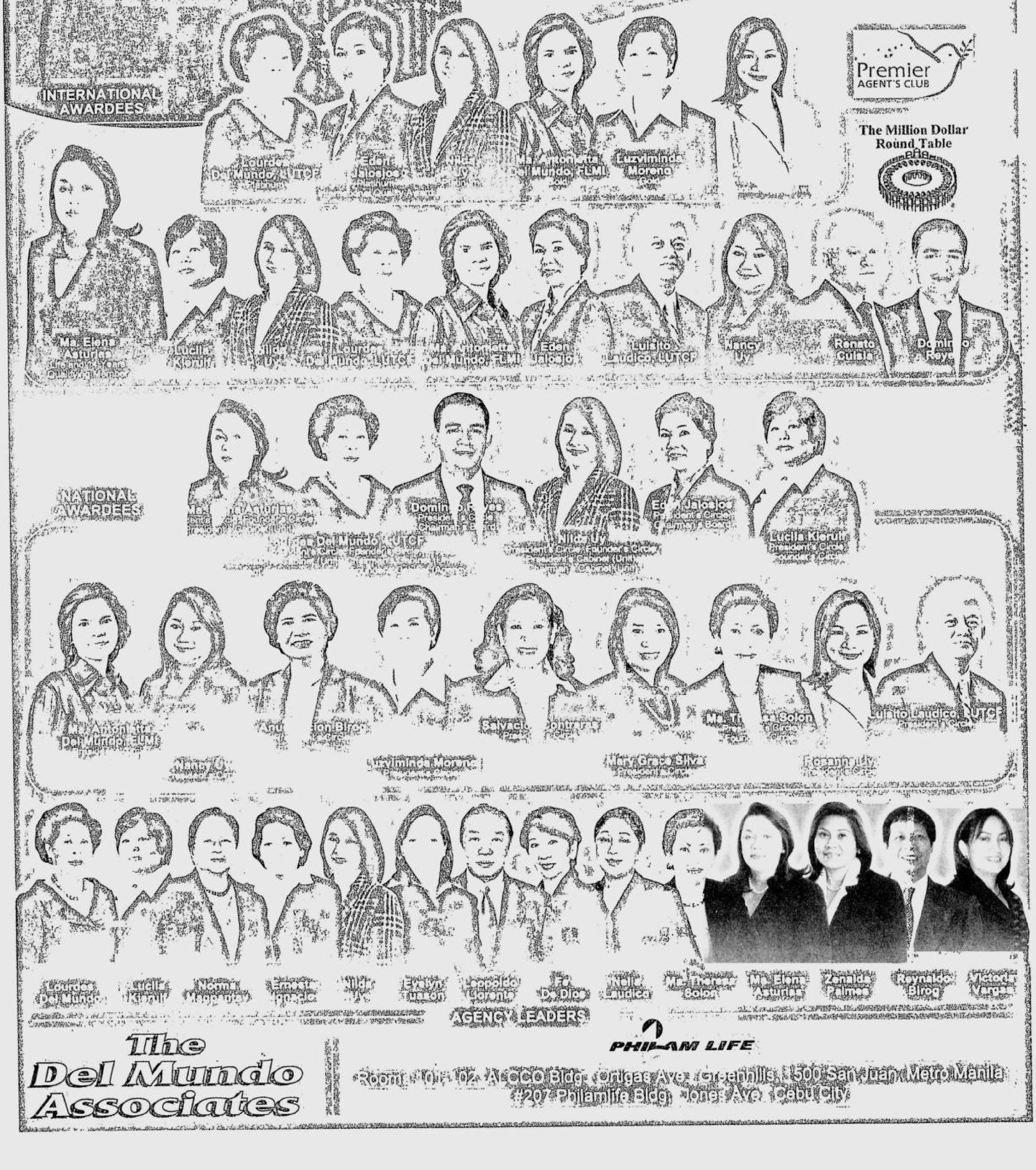
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Ma. Theresa Solon
Ma. Elena Asturias
Zenaida Palmes
Reynaldo Biroc
Victoria Vargas
AGENCY LEADERS

PHILAM LIFE

The Del Mundo Associates

Room 101-102 ALCCO Bldg. Ortigas Ave. Greenhills, 1500 San Juan Metro Manila
#207 Philamlife Bldg. Jones Ave. Cebu City

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- NBCOT exam passers

We encourage you to bring your family members to attend our Job Fairs and get to know us!

If you're qualified, please join any of the series of recruitment seminars RCM has prepared for you in:

City	Venue	Date	Time
Manila	New World Hotel	Feb. 24 - 25 March 10	10a-4p
Baguio	Prince Plaza Hotel	Feb. 26	2p-7p
Angeles City	Holiday Inn	Feb. 27	12p-5:30p
Cebu	Marriott Hotel	March 3 - 4	10a-4p
Davao	Marco Polo Hotel	March 10 -11	10a-4p

IMPORTANT! Please don't forget to bring all of the following:

- Visa Screen Certification
- PRC License
- TOEFL/TSE/IELTS/CGFNS Exam Passers
- NCLEX/NBCOT/NPTE Exam Passers
- 3 copies 2" x 2" id photos
- Detailed resume
- Transcript of records
- Diploma
- 2 reference letters
- Birth Certificate
- Copy of Passport

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Philippine Contacts

John Clements Consultants, Inc.
EDI - STAFFBUILDERS INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Level 12B, LKG Tower
6801 Ayala Ave., Makati City 1226
Call Cris Mercado at (02) 884-1227
E-mail: ihc@johnclements.com
LIC. # POEA 021-LB-063006-R

Republic of the Philippines
SENATE
Pasay City

INVITATION TO BID

The Senate of the Philippines invites all G-EPS registered bidders/suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid on the following:

DESCRIPTION	QTY.	PROJECT ALLOCATION	NON-REFUNDABLE FEE
1. Printing and binding of "Record of the Senate"	Four (4) volumes	Php 2,121,000.00	Php 200.00
2. Printing and binding of "Journal of the Senate"	Two (2) volumes	Php 884,000.00	Php 200.00
3. Repair & re-roofing of PPS Warehouse	Lot	Php 585,000.00	Php 200.00
4. Repair & renovation of Senate common comfort rooms	Lot	Php 4,600,000.00	Php 500.00
5. CY2007 Canteen Concession & Catering Services (RE-BIDDING)		(consumption basis)	Php 200.00

The bidding documents shall be available to interested bidders/suppliers at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 401, 4/F Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City from 1:30 PM to 6:00 PM, March 12-15, 2007 upon payment of non-refundable fee as indicated above. Schedule of pre-bidding conferences and opening of bids will be held at the Office of the Deputy Secretary for Administrative and Financial Services, Rm. 408, 4th Floor, Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Pasay City on the following dates:

PRE-BIDDING CONFERENCE	SUBMISSION & OPENING OF BIDS
1. March 20, 2007 (Tues), 10 AM	1. April 10, 2007 (Tues), 10 AM
2. March 20, 2007 (Tues), 10 AM	2. April 10, 2007 (Tues), 10 AM
3. to be sent through fax	3. to be sent through fax
4. March 21, 2007 (Wed), 10 AM	4. April 11, 2007 (Wed), 10 AM
5. March 22, 2007 (Thurs), 10 AM	5. April 12, 2007 (Thurs), 10 AM

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation, and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Bids received in excess of the Approved Budget of the Contract (ABC) shall be automatically rejected at bid opening. **LATE BIDS SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED. ALTERNATIVE BIDS SHALL BE REJECTED.**

Bid bond shall be in the form of cash, cashier's check, or manager's check equivalent to two percent (2%) of the approved budget of the contract, except for the CY2007 Canteen Concession & Catering Services:

DESCRIPTION	BID BOND
1. Printing and binding of "Record of the Senate"	Php 42,432.00
2. Printing and binding of "Journal of the Senate"	Php 17,680.00
3. Repair & re-roofing of PPS Warehouse	Php 11,700.00
4. Repair & renovation of Senate common comfort rooms	Php 92,000.00
5. CY2007 Canteen Concession & Catering Services	Php 300,000.00

This invitation is also advertised with the Government Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS) at www.procurementservice.org. Senate website at www.senate.gov.ph., and posted at the 4th Floor Senate bulletin board.

For inquiry, please call the BAC Secretariat Office at telefax no. 552-6601 local 1602 (c/o Rose de Castro).

THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO 1) REVIEW ALL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS; 2) REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS; 3) CONFISCATE THE BID BOND AND/OR PURSUE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION SHOULD A BIDDER BE FOUND TO HAVE VIOLATED R.A. 9184; 4) WAIVE ANY DEFECTS CONTAINED THEREIN; and/or 5) ACCEPT THE OFFER MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT. ANY DECISION MADE BY THE SENATE IS FINAL AND EXECUTORY.

FURTHER, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY THE BIDDER OR WINNING BIDDER, AS THE CASE MAY BE, FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT SAID PARTY(IES) MAY INCUR IN ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE PRE-BIDDING AND BIDDING PROCESS NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ARNEL JOSE S. BAÑAS**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--March 9, 2007)

Creating the largest independent and privately owned global risk management specialist and insurance broker.

The international operations of the Alexander Forbes Group has joined forces with Lockton Companies of the US to create the largest independent and privately owned global risk management specialist and insurance broker. The new company will operate under the name of Lockton, with its international arm based in London.

In line with the global move of all the companies within the Group, **Alexander Forbes Philippines Insurance & Reinsurance Brokers, Inc.**, is changing its name and will now be called:

Lockton Philippines Insurance and Reinsurance Brokers, Inc.

Our Philippine operation continues to grow its business and to attract the most qualified staff in the industry. We continue to create the best place to work and the best place to buy insurance.

VICTORIO C. VALLEDOR
President and CEO

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Lockton Philippines Insurance and Reinsurance Brokers, Inc.
Manila Head Office: 29th Floor Rufino Pacific Tower, 6784 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No.: 811-0388 (connecting all departments) • Fax Nos.: 811-0069 / 811-0093 •
Cebu Office: Unit 1202 12th Floor Ayala Life FGU Center, Mindanao Avenue, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City
Tel. No.: (032) 254-1870 • Fax No.: (032) 254-1905
Email: info.ph@asia.lockton.com Website: lockton.com/asia

A partner in EOS

(PDI--March 9, 2007)

BUTUAN CITY WATER DISTRICT
J.A. Rosales Avenue, Butuan City
Tel. Nos. (085) 342-3145/46; Fax No. (085) 341-4298
E-mail address: bcwd2@skyinet.net

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Butuan City Water District hereby invites suppliers and distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid, in accordance with I.R.R. of R.A. 9184, for the supply and delivery of Brass Angle Meter Valve, Brass Fittings, G.I. Pipes & Fittings and HDPE Pipes.

PACKAGE 1. BRASS ANGLE METER VALVE, ISO (1 Item)

QTY	DESCRIPTION
3,500 pcs.	Brass Angle Meter Valve 25mmØx25mmØ, ISO

ABC: P1,389,500.00 **Bidding Fee: P1,500.00**

PACKAGE 2. BRASS FITTINGS ISO (3 Items)
4,900 pcs. Brass Coupling 25mmØ, ISO
710 pcs. Brass Coupling 32mmØ, ISO
2,460 pcs. Brass union 25mmØ, ISO
ABC: P2,163,570.00 **Bidding Fee: P2,000.00**

PACKAGE 3. G.I. PIPES & FITTINGS (7 Items)
2,080 pcs. G.I. Elbow 1"Ø x 90º; 530 pcs. G.I. Pipes 1"Ø x 6.0 meters; 4,070 pcs. G.I. Plug ¾"Ø; 2,610 pcs. G.I. Tee Reducer 1"Ø x ¾"Ø; 1,540 pcs. G.I. Tee 1"Ø x 1"Ø; 350 pcs. G.I. Union 1"Ø; 5,300 rolls Teflon Tape ¾"Ø x 10 meters
ABC: P790,593.00 **Bidding Fee: P1,000.00**

PACKAGE 4. HDPE PIPES (2 Items)
471 rolls Black HDPE Pipes 25mmØ x 150mm, SDR11, ISO
25 rolls Blue HDPE Pipes 63mmØ x 60m, SDR11, ISO
ABC: P1,455,500.00 **Bidding Fee: P1,500.00**

Bids in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the Bid Opening.

Prospective Bidders should have an experience in undertaking a similar project with amount at least fifty percent (50%) of the proposed project for bidding. Delivery of goods is required by June 26, 2007.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased per package by interested Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee as indicated per package. The method of payment in **CASH**. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidders or his authorized representative.

For Package 4, Interested applicants shall submit to the BAC Secretariat, during its business hours, one (1) roll Black HDPE Pipes 25mmØ x 150m, SDR 11, ISO as sample, which shall be subjected to Hydro Testing on Working & Bursting Pressure and Measurement Tests, upon cash payment of non-refundabe testing fee of P300.00. Deadline for submission of sample shall be on March 20, 2007. The BAC will conduct the testing even without the presence of the applicant or his authorized representative, and such results shall be final. Only applicants duly notified that their sample passed all tests shall be qualified to purchase bidding documents and participate in the bidding. Unclaimed samples within sixty (60) days from the date of testing shall become the property of Butuan City Water District.

Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at the Training Hall, BCWD Administration Building on the following dates:

March 23, 2007	2:00 p.m. (BCWD time) - Packages 1, 2 & 3
April 2, 2007	2:00 p.m. (BCWD time) - Package 4

Submission and opening of sealed bids shall be at the same venue, which shall follow on:

April 10, 2007	9:00 a.m. (BCWD time) - Packages 1 & 2 2:00 p.m. (BCWD time) - Package 3
April 16, 2007	2:00 p.m. (BCWD time) - Package 4

Late bids shall not be accepted.

Butuan City Water District reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or formality therein, to assume no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **JORGE L. GUDUYO, CE**
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - March 9, 2007)

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

More Classified Ads:

Land Transportation Office A22
Agusan del Norte Electric Cooperative A15
Philippine Carabao Center A23
DepEd Region V A23
Northern Mindanao A23

Music scholars at SSC

THE SR. BAPTISTA Battig Music Foundation presents "Scholars Then and Now", a concert by past and present scholars featuring pianists Virginia Laico Villanueva and Marianne Fajardo; violinist Denise Santos Huang; Joseph Cimafranco, Rey Casey Concepcion and Gerry Graham Gonzales of the SSC String Quartet; Predis Violinists and the SSC Chamber Orchestra and conductors Arturo Molina, Gina Medina and Mary Grace del Rosario.

The repertoire includes concertos by F. Mendelsohn, J.S. Bach and H. Weinaski; and the String Quartet No. 2 by A. Borodin.

The concert "Scholars Then and Now" will be held on Sunday, 18 March 2007, 7 p.m. at the St. Cecilia's Hall, St. Scholastica's College, Leon Guinto, Manila.

For concert tickets and information please call 526-8080.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Region IV-A Calabarzon
DIVISION OF RIZAL
Cabrera Road, Brgy. Dolores Taytay, Rizal
Tel. Nos. (02) 284-2070-Telefax; 284-2082/284-2083

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DepED-Division of Rizal through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/ manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	:	Supply and Delivery of School Furniture CY 2006
Location	:	Various schools within the Province of Rizal
Brief Description	:	Package A - Elementary Tables & Chairs and Teacher's Table & Chair (set) Package B - Secondary Armchairs and Teacher's Table & Chair (set)
ABC & Funding Source	:	Government of the Philippines, GAA CY 2006 (75% Allocation)
Contract Duration	:	120 calendar days
Delivery Sites	:	"Door to door" delivery to various recipient schools (See Schedule of Requirements of the Bidding Documents)

	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT		
	1st Cong. District	2nd Cong. District	Total
Package A	2,284,000.00	3,824,000.00	**6,108,000.00**
Package B	880,000.00	1,303,000.00	**2,183,000.00**
Total	**3,164,000.00**	**5,127,000.00**	**8,291,000.00**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents.

A **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all prospective bidders will be held on **March 21, 2007, 1:00 p.m.** at the DepED-Rizal Conference Hall, DepEd Bldg., Dolores Taytay, Rizal.

Bids must be received on or before **April 3, 2007, 10:00 a.m.** at the **DepED Division of Rizal**. Late Bids shall be rejected.

Bids in excess of Approved Budget for the Contract shall be rejected.

Bid Documents will be available only to **prospective bidders** upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Three Thousand Pesos (Php3,000.00)** to the DepEd-Rizal Cashier beginning today until April 3, 2007, 9:00 a.m.

The BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **CONCEPCION U. SAN ANTONIO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - March 9, 2007)

LUIS T. NERRY

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that MS. **CYNTHIA ADAGIO YAYA** is no longer connected with **PHILIPPINE ESTATES CORPORATION** effective **December 21, 2006**. The said person was terminated due to violations of company prescribed policies. Thus, the company shall not be bound and liable for whatever transactions entered by Ms. Yaya beginning from the above mentioned date. You may contact our Human Resource Department at 687-5660 local 103 for details.

(PDI--Mar. 9, 2007)

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National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
GENPACT SERVICES LLC Northgate Cyberzone, Filinvest, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Sandeep Kumar Marwah	Business IT Manager
VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS PHILIPPINES, INC. 17/F Tower 2, The Enterprise Center, 5766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Scott Michael Linder	Senior Manager, Band 6
WONDERPHIL CONSULTANT CORP. Unit F 7/F Westgate Tower, Investment Drive, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Yoojin Shin	Assistant Supervisor
THAI AIRWAYS INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED Country Space I Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Nivat Chantarachoti	General Manager
FLUOR DANIEL, INC., PHILIPPINES 3/F Asian Star Bldg., 2402-2404 Asean Drive, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Brian Jakins	Structural Design Supervisor
SUMITOMO CORPORATION-MANILA BRANCH 35/F Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Eita Fujikawa	Department Manager-Machinery and Electric Department
ALLSET CORPORATION 3B Lafayette 117 Eastwood Ave., Quezon City	Seung Ho Hong	Technical Support Manager
POWERON INTERNATIONAL NETWORK MARKETING CORP. ALPAP I Bldg., Penthouse Suite, 140 L.P. Leviste St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Donald Michael Feeney Jr.	Consultant
POWERON INTERNATIONAL NETWORK MARKETING CORP. ALPAP I Bldg., Penthouse Suite, 140 L.P. Leviste St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Dana Gay Andrews	Consultant
FLOOR FINISH-FLOOR LEVEL (FF-FL), INC. PIECO Bldg., Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati City	Trevor James Wall	Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors & Vice-President
FLOOR FINISH-FLOOR LEVEL (FF-FL), INC. PIECO Bldg., Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati City	Darren John Williams	Chairman of the Board of Directors & President
DE MYOUNG SEOUL CORP. 5362 Gen. Luna St., Poblacion, Makati City	Chang Ho Lee	Vice President
TELETECH CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT PHILS., INC. Bldg. F, SM Corp. Offices, 1000 Bay Blvd., SM Corp. Bus. Park, Pasay City	Michael Gavin Sendall	Assistant Vice President
AZTERIZK CONSULTANTS INC. 19 A Gumamela St., Clinicville BF Homes, Parañaque City	Ho Sang Lim	Customer Support Staff
MONEY PAYTNER INC. 808 Cityland Herrera Tower, Salcedo Village, Makati City	Junseok Lee	Manager
AZTERIZK CONSULTANTS INC. 19 A Gumamela St., Clinicville BF Homes, Parañaque City	Eunhyung Jeon (wife of BAK)	Marketing Manager

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

The DOLE conducts free seminar on Labor-Human Relations and Productivity. For more information, please call 339-2013 & 303-5920.

(PDI--March 9, 2007)

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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project/ Brief Description	One (1) lot - Engagement of services of a contractor for the lease/rental of brand new copier machines with printer and scanner per BSP's Terms of Reference
Approved Budget for the Contract	P19,000,000.00 per annum (indicative amount)
Contract Duration	Three (3) years

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project awarded and completed within the last five (5) years (Y2002 to present) amounting to at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	09 to 21 March 2007 (up to 1:30 p.m. only)
2. Pre-bid Conference	23 March 2007, 2:00 p.m., Room MR2A
3. Opening of Bids	10 April 2007, 2:00 p.m.
4. Bid Evaluation	) These shall be in accordance with the prescribed) periods allowed in the Implementing Rules &) Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated) 10 January 2003
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P28,500.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI - March 9, 2007)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5279

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND REBID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

Various Sizes of Weldneck Flanges	*FGJ 60712*	*PHP*	*2,200,000.00*
Various Sizes of Carbon Steel Pipes	*FGJ 60922*	*PHP*	*4,700,000.00*

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Ms. Michelle B. Madrona (for FGJ 60712)** and **Eloisa J. Hufana (for FGJ 60922)** starting **March 9, 2007** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on:

March 15, 2007	**FGJ 60712**
March 16, 2007	**FGJ 60922**

2:00 p.m. at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply, Property and Materials Management Division at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than 2:00 p.m. **(Supply Management's Office Wall Clock Time) of March 28, 2007 for FGJ 60922 and March 29, 2007 for FGJ 60712.** Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-March 9, 2007)

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephones (632) 5513438 • 5513454 • Facsimile (632) 5513436
E-mail: info@peza.gov.ph • Website: www.peza.gov.ph

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
Roxas Boulevard cor. San Luis St.
Pasay City, Philippines

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **GOJI INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES CORPORATION (GIPC)** with plant site at the Mactan Economic Zone (MEZ) has filed with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) an application for **PIONEER STATUS** to be granted to its production of Xenon Tubes based on newnewss of product and technology, which if approved, will entitle the company to six (6) years of Income Tax Holiday. Said application has been officially accepted and is under process in this office.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file with the PEZA his/her objections in writing and under oath, within fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication.

Please direct your position papers/comments to the Enterprise Regulations Department of PEZA (Tel. Nos. 551-9544; and telefax 551-3456).

(Sgd.) **JUSTO PORFIRIO LL. YUSINGCO**
Deputy Director General for Finance and Administration
Officer-In-Charge

(PDI--March 9, 2007)

OBITUARIES

Naomi Sanvictores Pareja

widow of **Maj. (AFP Ret.) Manuel Velez Pareja**

peacefully joined her Creator
on March 7, 2007 at the age of 87.

Her son **Dr. Nestor S. Pareja** married to **Dr. Mildred N. Pareja**, & daughter **Nelza Pareja** married to **Bobby Navarrete**, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in praying for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her body lies in state at Chapel Q, Loyola Memorial Chapels & Crematorium, Inc., Guadalupe, Makati City.

Necrological Service will be held on Saturday, March 10, 2007 at 8:00 p.m. at Chapel Q. Cremation will be on March 11, 2007 at the Loyola Memorial Chapels & Crematorium, Inc. at 8:00 o'clock on Sunday morning.

MENELEO "Miling" REYES SANTOS

(of San Simon, Pampanga & Sampaloc, Manila)

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on
March 8, 2007 at the age of 93.

His wife **IRENE** (†); bereaved children and in-laws, **ERNIE, LUDY, ARTHUR & MARY ANN, REMY & RAMON, GIL, MENELEO, JR. & ROSE** and other relatives request the pious readers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at St. Mark Memorial Chapels located along G. Tuazon corner Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila.

Cremation schedule at the Chinese Crematorium shall be on Sunday, March 11, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.

SALVACION NOLASCO SANTIAGO

of Gattaran, Cagayan and Troy, Michigan

peacefully passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on 01 March 2007 at the age of 61.

Her loving husband **Mario**; children: **Maribeth** and **Omar**, and **Maya**; grandchild: **Ethan**; brothers: **Condring**, **Tommy**, **Danny**, **Jorge**, **Ramon**, **Josie**, **Tony**, **Samy** and **Pidiong**; sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body shall arrive on 10 March 2007 from Michigan and shall be brought to her residence in Gattaran, Cagayan on 12 March 2007.

Interment shall be at Gattaran, Cagayan, on 15 March 2007, after the celebration of the 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass at the St. Catherine Parish Church.

ERRATUM

Please be informed that the
interment date of
MA. DELIA ALAMPAY
LIMPINGCO
who passed away on
March 5, 2007 has been changed to
March 10, 2007 instead of
March 11, 2007, as
published yesterday.

Death Notice

PRIMA TRINIDAD-MENDOZA

9 June 1920 - 7 March 2007
Retired teacher, principal, supervisor
Division of City Schools of Manila

Her remains lie in state at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church,
Mahinhin Street, UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City.

Interment will be on 11 March 2007 at the Loyola Memorial Park
in Marikina City at 3 p.m.

> "...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
>
> 2 Corinthians 5:8

BUSINESS

Make people feel gains, donors urge RP

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE DONOR COMMUNITY yesterday urged the Philippine government to exert extra effort to translate economic gains into more investments and jobs, higher income and reduced poverty.

At the opening yesterday of the two-day Philippine Development Forum with foreign multilateral and bilateral donors in Cebu, a venue where the government hopes to harness $1.7 billion in new official development assistance for priority infrastructure projects, World Bank country director and forum co-chair

MAKE/ B4

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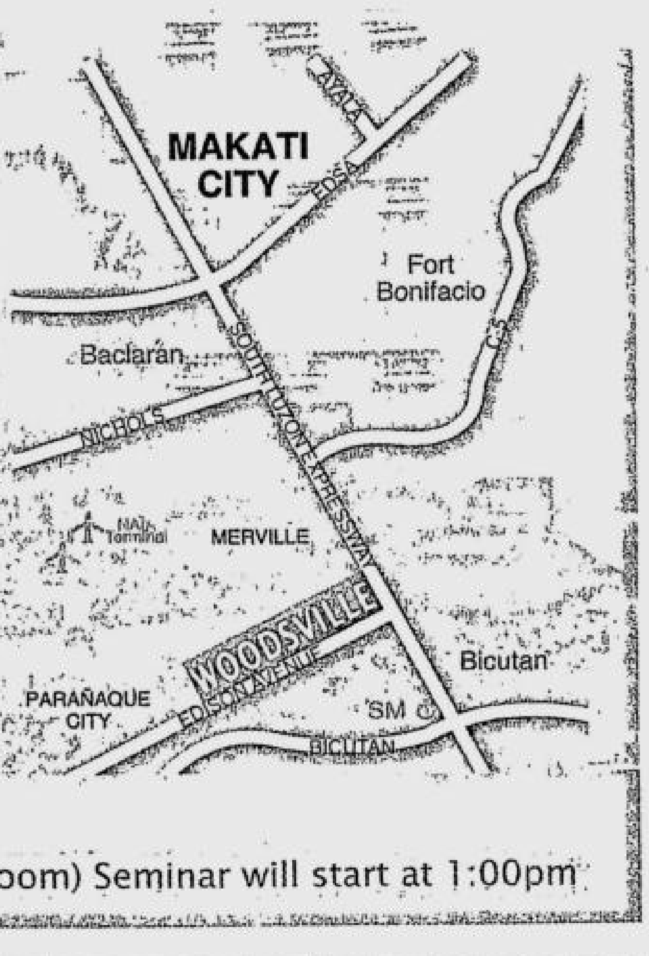

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On March 10, 2007 (Saturday) at Max's Fried Chicken, Sucat Parañaque (Maximo Function Room) Seminar will start at 1:00pm

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The unforgettable 'piñarap' boy

Soy sauce firm tries to gain back market leadership, launches new ad

TIAN Sy Jr. 30 years ago in the original "Piñarap" commercial

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

HE WAS SUPPOSED TO SAY "PIÑAKAmasarap," but all that the 3-year-old Tian Sy Jr. could blurt out was "piñarap."

That "mistake" endeared the child and the soy sauce brand Marca Piña to a generation, and the 30-second television commercial that came out in 1977 became something of an icon.

But that was in the 1970s and 1980s when Marca Piña, inspired by the pineapple, which is a lucky fruit to the Chinese, used to lord over the sizable soy sauce market and three of every five bottles of soy sauce sold in the Calabarzon region and Metro Manila bore the Marca Piña brand.

Labor problems proved to be its downfall, forcing Marca Piña to close its doors from 1993 to 1997.

That could have been the end of Marca Piña produced by Piñakamasarap Corp.

However, the 3-year old in the commercial, who graduated with an Economics degree from the University of Toronto in 1997, had other plans.

He was bent on marking a new beginning for the revered brand.

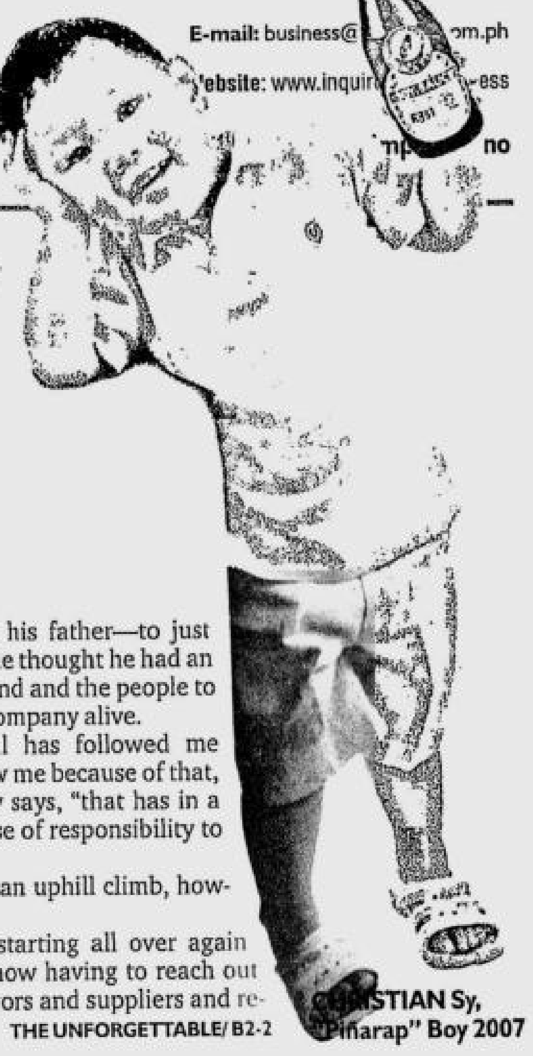
Sy tells the INQUIRER that he had been asked by his father—who founded Marca Piña in 1945 together with his father—to just stay in Canada, but he thought he had an obligation to the brand and the people to keep the soy sauce company alive.

"That commercial has followed me around, people know me because of that, even in Canada," Sy says, "that has in a way given me a sense of responsibility to the brand."

It's proving to be an uphill climb, however.

Sy says it's like starting all over again with management now having to reach out again to its distributors and suppliers and re-

THE UNFORGETTABLE/ B2-2



STIAN Sy, "Piñarap" Boy 2007

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* For local Sun-to-Sun calls and texts only. ** 24-month holding period. *** When enrolled in Call & Text Unlimited.

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Share price highs

By Aaron C. Escartin and Joel L. Tan-Torres
SGV & Co

TAX-FILES

TWO THINGS MAY HAPPEN when prices of shares go up: the employees jump for joy as their employers sulk in the corner. You may ask, why is this so? Let us explain.

Employees receive stock options as payment for the services they rendered to their employer. Stock options are given to the employees which entitles them to buy their employer's shares of stock at an agreed price. Philippine Financial Reporting Standard (PFRS) 2 on share-based payments govern the financial accounting treatment of these stock options. This standard requires that the employer should record the expense in its books when the employees render the services even though the employees won't realize the benefits immediately.

Let's say the employer grants stock options to its employees. The agreed price in the stock options is called the exercise price. You may probably ask how employees will benefit from the stock options. If the market price is higher than the exercise price, the employees can purchase these shares at exercise price and subsequently sell these shares at market price. The gain realized from selling the shares is the difference between the selling price, which is market price, and their exercise price.

Normally, under the stock option plan, the employees are allowed to exercise the option only after they render certain years of service. For example, under the plan, the employees are allowed to buy the shares after five years of service. This five-year period is called the vesting period. Under this scheme, the stock option is granted as compensation for the employees' services for five years but the benefit will be realized only when the employees exercise the option at the end of the five-year period. How will these be treated for financial accounting purposes? How about for income tax purposes?

For financial accounting purposes, the employer records an expense in its books throughout the vesting period, which is five years from the given example. The amount of the expense to be recorded is based on the fair market value of the stock options at the time it is granted. The fair market value of the stock option will be spread or amortized over the vesting period. Let's assume that the employer granted 100 stock options to an employee to be exercised at the end of five years. Each stock option allows the employee to purchase one share of the employer's stock at P20, the fair market value of the stock at the time the stock option is granted. The employee can purchase the said shares only at the end of five years for P20 even if the actual market price at that time is already above P20.

On the other hand, the employer is required to estimate the fair value of the stock option at the grant date for purposes of determining the amount of expense to be recorded in the books. The computation may require an expert because the option values use complex formulas derived using the Black-Scholes model.

For simplicity, let's assume that the fair value of the stock option at grant date is P12 (take note, this is different from the fair market value of the shares of stock, which is P20). In this case, the total fair value of the 100 stock options will be P1,200 (100 stock options multiplied by P12 fair value). However, this is not the amount of expense to be recorded in the year of grant. This will still be allocated over five years. Hence, the expense to be recorded during the first year is only P240 (P1,200 divided by five years). This can be recorded as part of "employee benefits expense." If the employee does not resign during the five-year vesting period, the amount of expense will be the same for the remaining four years, which is P240 every year.

However, for income tax purposes, the employee benefits expense is not yet tax deductible since the stock option is not yet exercised. Moreover, if the stock option is exercised, the amount of tax deductible expense will be the difference between the exercise price, and the fair market value of the shares of stock at the time of exercise. (BIR Ruling DA-255-2005 dated June 16, 2005). Thus, the fair value of stock option estimated using the Black-Scholes model is not relevant for income tax purposes. Assume that at the end of five years, the employee exercised the 100 stock options since the fair market value of the shares of stock increased to P30 per share. In this case, the employee will be paying only P2,000 (100 shares multiplied by P20 exercise price), instead of P3,000 (100 shares multiplied by P30 fair market value). Based on this information, the employer can claim P1,000 as a tax deductible expense, which is the difference between the exercise price of P2,000 and the total fair market value of the shares of P3,000.

In addition, the exercise of the stock option is also a taxable event since, in effect, the employer granted a fringe benefit to its employees. Normally, a stock option is granted to non-rank-and-file employees. Non-rank-and-file employees are those employees holding supervisory and managerial positions, including executives. In this case, the fringe benefit will be subject to 32-percent fringe benefits tax (FBT) imposed under Section 33 of the Tax Code. From the given example, what will be the amount of fringe benefit subject to FBT? It will be the difference between the exercise price and the fair market value of the employer's shares of stock at the time of exercise, which is P1,000. (BIR Ruling DA-255-2005). The FBT will be computed based on the grossed-up monetary value (GMV) of the benefit. To compute for the GMV, the P1,000 fringe benefit will be divided by 68% (the difference between 100% and 32% FBT rate). So, the GMV will be P1,471. This GMV of P1,471 will be multiplied by 32%, hence the FBT of P471. The FBT of P471 is also tax deductible. (BIR Ruling DA-255-2005).

Effectively, the amount of tax deduction that can be claimed by the employer represents the GMV of the fringe benefits, which amounts to P1,471. This amount represents the value of the fringe benefits of P1,000 and the P471 FBT.

As you can see, what is allowable as tax deduction is also the amount that will be considered as fringe benefit subject to FBT. In addition, the said amount effectively represents the potential gain of the employee if the shares are sold at fair market value.

You may also be wondering, if the stock option is granted to rank-and-file employees, will this be subject to FBT? Rank-and-file employees are those employees holding positions below supervisors. Since FBT is imposed only on fringe benefits granted to non-rank-and-file employees, those granted to rank-and-file employees are not subject to FBT. However, these are subject to withholding tax on wages (WTW) or the withholding tax on compensation. These will form part of the rank-and-file employees' taxable compensation income.

The above discussion deals merely with when stock prices rise. What happens when stock prices decline? Employees are not that glad when the stock price falls below the exercise price of the stock option. They will not realize any gain in that case. Any logical person will not exercise the stock option when stock prices decline because no one will be interested in buying the shares, unless it is expected that the share prices will rise in the near future. Effectively, there is no fringe benefit when stock prices fall below the exercise price.

In summary, the grant of stock options to the employees may result in the recognition of an expense for financial accounting purposes based on the fair value of the stock option but that expense is not yet tax deductible. The expense will only be tax deductible when the employees exercise the stock options. At the time of exercise, the amount of tax deduction will be the difference between the exercise price and the fair market value of the shares of stock, which is higher than the exercise price. In addition, the said difference will be subject to FBT if exercised by a non-rank-and-file employee and subject to WTW if exercised by a rank-and-file employee.

From the above discussion, it is obvious that the adoption of the new accounting standards results in a difference in the financial accounting and tax treatment of stock options, which should be monitored by the employer. Employees may be happy as share prices increase but it is also burdensome for the employer as the financial accounting treatment may require experts' assistance in determining the amount of expense. The employer may also be paying additional taxes on fringe benefit particularly if these are granted to the non-rank-and-file employees. Note that FBT is shouldered by the employer.

However, ideally, the burden is expected to result in benefits to the employer when the employees are efficient in doing their everyday work which increases the employers' profitability. The grant of stock option makes employees happy and satisfied, thus, the employer will eventually become profitable.

Surgery in the sun lures patients

BANGKOK—WHEN JUNE FLOWERS WOKE up in her small Ohio town one winter's morning, unable to move because of back pain, she never dreamt she would fly to the other side of the world to undergo surgery that she couldn't afford at home.

One of 40 million Americans with no health insurance, the part-time cashier who had never been outside the US became a "medical tourist" to a hospital with a strange-sounding name in the Thai capital, Bangkok.

"When we think of Asia, we think of rundown huts, poverty and disease," said Flowers, 47.

Few places could dispel that image more forcefully than Bumrungrad International, a luxurious hospital with a Starbucks in the lobby and an Italian restaurant upstairs.

From the receptionists in tailored silk suits to the plush carpets and spacious rooms—everything is designed to give the hospital the look and feel of a five-star hotel.

Unable to pay the $30,000 that US surgeons would charge to operate on her herniated disc, Flowers had spent more than three years trying to keep the pain at bay with chiropractic treatments and cortisone injections.

Watching the "60 Minutes" television show in 2005, she learned about Bumrungrad, where most of the doctors are Western-trained but the cost of treatment is about one eighth of that in the United States.

Thailand, famous for its beaches, temples and nightlife, is a leading destination for medical tourism.

Bumrungrad offers everything from heart bypass surgery to chemotherapy and breast enlargement procedures. It treated 450,000 foreign patients last year—more than any other hospital in the world.

Competition is strong from the Apollo Hospitals group in India, which is also courting Americans looking for cost savings and Europeans unhappy with long waiting times at home.

Health care could soon follow the flight of manufacturing, services and software development to the developing world where a lower cost of living translates to cheaper treatment, said Ruben Toral, Bumrungrad's marketing director.

"We believe that medical tourism will eventually lead to medical outsourcing," Toral told Reuters. "Your corporation, your insurer, your government could send you here for surgery and make significant savings."

Meanwhile, individuals are already outsourcing their own health care and encouraging friends and family to do the same in a word-of-mouth market.

"This is where all my family will come now. If there is a problem, we will come here," said Mariam Taqi, a 62-year-old Kuwaiti woman receiving treatment for leukemia at Bumrungrad.

"When I told my doctor we were thinking about going to Thailand, he said he had serious concerns about the cleanliness of the place and the dearth of expertise. He refused to give me handover notes," 61-year-old Sherry Pinckley said.

He decided to go anyway, and had both her knees replaced at a cost of $10,000 per knee in February—less than one fifth of the price for the same surgery at home.

The Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons has expressed alarm about the phenomenon it calls "scalpel tourism," often driven by agents who offer a package of flights, hotel accommodation, surgery and sightseeing.

It says its members are seeing more and more patients after botched cosmetic surgery jobs in countries such as Thailand. *Reuters*

The unforgettable ...

From page B2-1

connecting with old and new customers.

This is a far cry from its heydays when it accounted for as much as 90 percent of the market in Batangas and Laguna and was market leader in the provinces of Pampanga, Tarlac as well as the National Capital Region.

"We are going back to the basics, of trying to put our brand on the shelf and get new distributors," Sy says.

But one thing going for Marca Piña, however, is the brand and its reputation for having great tasting soy sauce.

"It's really the formula because we still do some fermentation of soy sauce, which the rest of the soy sauce companies do not do anymore," Sy says.

"They already use the fast process, which allows you to make soy sauce in just three days compared to months in the fermentation process," he adds.

That formula has been changed little since 1945 when Marca Piña brought in experts from Japan to help it develop the right formula for soy sauce.

Because of this, the brand still enjoys some recognition even if Marca Piña was out of the supermarkets' shelves for some time.

"One thing going for us is that the brand is still strong, and we do know how to make soy sauce," he says.

He says that because Marca Piña uses both fermentation and fast process of preparing soy sauce, its brand has just the right touch of sweetness to it that Filipinos love, although the fermentation process does make its soy sauce more expensive than its competition.

"But we are selling a quality product," Sy says.

To reintroduce the soy sauce to a new market, Sy decided to go for a tried and tested formula—a television commercial.

Sy is no longer starring in this commercial, but his son, Christian, who did not only say "piñarap" but sang an entire song.

"My wife tells me that my son is more intelligent because he can sing an entire song at less than three years old, while I could only say piñarap," Sy shares.

But the commercial does feature snippets of the old commercial, to emphasize that Marca Piña, which today is left with a market share of 20 percent, has been around for generations, and it is as good today as it was then.

The commercial entitled "Piñarap Boy 2007" first came last January and it is enjoying good recall. It centers on the message that it is rare for brands and products to be around for generations.

Marca Piña is one of those products and Sy says he will make sure that the company will be passed on to yet another generation.

P185 a cup for coffee from civet cat's droppings

By Frank Cimatu
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE COUNTRY'S most expensive coffee was the biggest hit during the Session Road in Bloom in the recently concluded Baguio Flower Festival.

The La Union-based S.O.U.L. Café put up a stall on Session Road during the festival and sold Coffee Alamid espresso for P185 a cup. That stiff price did not daunt drinkers who patiently waited in line to be served this coffee.

"It gives a different kind of high," says Ron Aliguid, a *balikbayan* from Luna, La Union, and Portland, Oregon.

Aliguid says he heard of this coffee taken from the droppings of civet cats and knew that it is the rarest and most expensive coffee in the world.

"But I didn't expect to taste it in the Philippines, much more in Baguio," he says.

Amboy Guevara, manager of S.O.U.L. Café, says the way they bring this particular coffee to their customers is to let them taste it first and then tell them how it was made.

"Otherwise, they would not want to try it," Guevara says. "And those who tried come back for more.

"Some would gulp the coffee but when we tell them the price, they start to sip and savor the taste," he says.

S.O.U.L manager Amboy Guevara serves Coffee Alamid Espresso.
FRANK CIMATU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Some people who tasted it either described the taste as musty, earthy, smooth and rich, syrupy and chocolatey.

S.O.U.L. Café and Bag of Beans in Tagaytay City are the only outlets selling Coffee Alamid in their menu.

Guevara says coffee growers in Cavite heard on television the story of the *kopi luwak* or coffee taken from the Asian palm civet (paradoxurus hermaphroditus), and recognized that they also shared the same predicament with the alamid or the Philippine civet cat, which is also of the same family.

The late historian William Henry Scott broached the idea of selling "motit coffee" in his essay on the Sagada civet cat published in the early 1970s.

The alamid or the musang or motit in Cordillera gorge on the ripe coffee berries and excrete partially-digested beans in their feces.

Like their Indonesian counterparts, the Cavite farmers decided to harvest the feces.

Guevara says the Cavite farmers at first decided to cage the alamid but the excretions they got were less satisfactory so they decided to set them free.

The Coffee Alamid incidentally is a natural blend of Liberica, Exelsa, Robusta and Arabica beans.

But while the *kopi luwak*, which already is marketed all over the world, sells for $600 a pound, the Coffee Alamid is cheaper but still expensive for most Filipinos.

A 50-gram jar sells for P475 while a 100-gram jar sells for P750. It takes 7 grams to make a cup and one has really to measure because of the cost, Guevara says.

He says the coffee excreted by the alamid undergoes change because of the enzymes in the digestive tract.

People thought that it was only their imagination going wild because of the high price that altered the taste but scientists confirmed Guevara's claim.

"The beans excreted by civet cats are lower in total protein, indicating that during digestion, proteins are being broken down and are also leached out of the beans," says Massimo Marcone, who made a study on the composition and properties of Indonesian palm civet coffee and Ethiopian civet coffee.

"Since proteins are what make coffee bitter during the roasting process, the lower levels of proteins decrease the bitterness of *kopi luwak*," Marcone says.

Guevara says that in the S.O.U.L. Café in Rosario, La Union, they serve Coffee Alamid espresso con panna (topped with whipped cream) to take advantage of the natural sweetness of the coffee.

Another persistent question, according to Guevara, who was a DJ and businessman in Baguio before becoming a restaurateur, is whether the Coffee Alamid is hygienic.

"We wash the beans thoroughly and we heat them to 250 degrees Fahrenheit, which is enough to kill bacteria," he says.

He says among their repeat customers are the *viajeros* or supply drivers who regularly ply Northern Luzon to Manila route because they need the extra jolt.

PMA names best marketing studs

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY GRADuating student Santiago Jorge Syjuco was recently named batch valedictorian of the 2007 Agora Youth Awards.

An award annually given by Philippine Marketing Association, Agora Youth hopes to motivate students to venture into marketing while impressing on them the importance of going beyond the stringent standards of excellence.

The panel of judges scrutinized the finalists' case studies and credentials, grilling them on the spot on how they plan to market Philamlife's Aksitext.

Other Agora Youth national awardees include: Wendell Estardo (MSU), Joseph Simoun Ferrer (DLSU Manila), Paul Bernard Tagalan (UP-Diliman); Nill Patrick Arroyo (AdMU), Lloyd Genesiran (Ateneo de Davao), Marie Kris Rodriguez (DLSU-Manila), Dianna Jeanne Tee (DLSU-Manila), Shiven Mukhi (DLSU- Manila); and Francis Xylem Thomson (DLSU-Dasmariñas).

Ateneo Junior Marketing Association, DLSU-Junior Entrepreneurs Marketing Association, UP Junior Marketing Association, San Beda Junior Marketing Association, Marketing Society-UP Visayas were also recognized as outstanding student marketing organizations.

Syjuco, who is graduating this April, has extensive experience in event organizing. He has helped 2004 Agora Awardee Philip Young and some members of the academe in various research studies. This marketing management major also teaches Math and English to underprivileged children.

LANDCO Pacific recently inaugurated the Central Park for The Peak at Terrazas de Punta Fuego. Price range at The Peak's 166 lots is P2.5 million to P4.7 million for cuts of 311 to 460 square meters. Purchase of lots entitles buyers to membership at the exclusive Club Punta Fuego, the weekend residents of many of Manila's upper crust. The Central Pavilion includes an infinity pool and kiddie pool, showers and dressing rooms, gazebos, picnic areas and private famil cabanas.

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3 YEAR

And the Winners Are...

PLDT's Wireless Wonders Bag Awards at E-Services Philippines 2007

For the past six years, the prestigious E-Services Philippines (ESP) Awards have recognized "Filipino IT professionals' world-class competencies as applied to innovative IT products and services". Coupled with the E-Services Philippines exhibition and conference, the ESP Awards recognize achievers in the country's IT industry.

In the spotlight was PLDT at the recent ESP Awards IT-Enabled Services (ITES) conference and exhibition, held at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, for winning in two categories. The star products to bag the prize were PLDT Shops.Work UnPlugged (SWUP) and PLDT F.A.S.Track (Field Asset System for Tracking), two wireless business solutions of the PLDT Corporate Business Group.

SWUPed Away

Winning the award for "Most Innovative Product", PLDT SWUP has been breaking new ground in several industries since its launch last year. This networking solution enables businesses with wireless transactions over a secure, virtual private network (VPN).

With SWUP retail services, restaurants and delivery services can now offer their clientele the option to pay on-site through SWUP wireless card swipe terminals that accept credit and debit card payments from Visa, Mastercard, JCB and AMEX through the Equitable Card Network. These point-of-sale terminals can process card transactions instantly, providing consumers with more convenient payment options.

SWUPing it also means more opportunities in microfinance. Rural banks can now deploy wireless ATMs in far-flung areas that are impossible to equip through a traditional wired infrastructure. Thanks to GPRS/EDGE technology, SWUP allows ATMs to operate within the coverage of over 6,000 cell sites that serve 99.3% of the Philippine population. This saves banking customers from a long commute to the nearest city to deposit or withdraw cash.

Now that SWUP-enabled businesses have raised the bar for customer convenience, there's no telling where it will take us next.

On the Right Track

PLDT F.A.S.Track, on the other hand, is raising the bar for business field productivity and efficiency. Winning "Most Creative Application Service" for 2007, F.A.S.Track helps corporations wirelessly monitor and manage their fleet and field personnel. By installing a "vehicle finder" in company trucks or by giving drivers F.A.S.Track-enabled SIM cards for their cellular phones, corporate administrators can use GPS and GSM technologies to supervise all their field asset operations simultaneously and practically in real-time. This is possible through the nationwide coverage of the PLDT-SMART network. Once vehicles go on the road, PLDT F.A.S.Track can generate real-time field data such as a vehicle's exact location and other relevant field information.

F.A.S.Track spells improved security for businesses that are dependent on mobile assets, such as manufacturing, wholesale, forwarding and utilities. Now, corporations no longer have to be in the dark when it comes to the location and condition of its fleet and personnel. Company headquarters will always know the fleet's next move, and businesses are empowered with greater productivity and operational efficiency. F.A.S.Track-enabled corporations are also equipped with a solution that can help deter highway robbery, bootlegging and pilferage, hence improving their overall field security.

It's clear that the hard work PLDT's Corporate Business Group has put into developing its range of business solutions has paid off. Nerisse S. Ramos, PLDT FVP and Head of Corporate Business Solutions affirms PLDT's commitment to continue developing creative and innovative solutions in response to the trust given not just by the people behind the ESP awards, but more importantly, its customers.

"We share the prestige and honor that these awards have brought about with all those who have contributed to SWUP and F.A.S.Track," she says, "We hope for continued support as we go out and prove to the E-Services Philippines award-giving body, our stakeholders, and most importantly, our customers, that these products are deserving of the awards bestowed."

■ Symphony Consulting President, Victor Gruet, BOI Executive Director, Celeste Ilagan, PLDT SWUP Sr. Product Manager, Antonio Darjuan, and PLDT Corporate Sales Business Head, Precy Katigbak.

■ PLDT SWUP enables the deployment of wireless ATMs and credit and debit card terminals anywhere in the Philippines.

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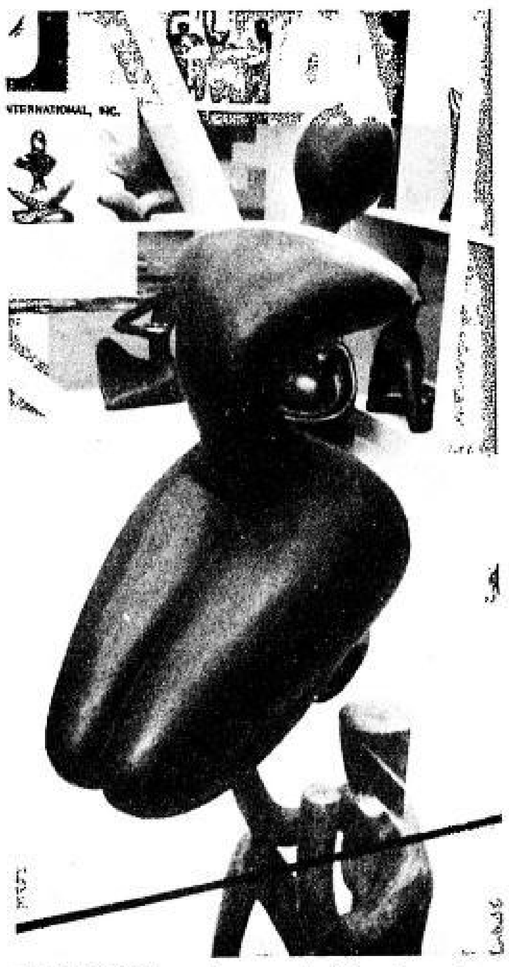
Intramuros Golf Course
Manila Hotel
Quirino Grandstand
Children's Museum
RESET
Zoom In
Pan

■ L-R: PLDT F.A.S.Track Product Manager, Gary Ignacio, PLDT Corporate Sales Business Head, Nurjehan Dayrit, and DTI Undersecretary, Zorayda Amelia Alonzo.

■ PLDT F.A.S.Track informs corporate administrators of the whereabouts of every vehicle in a company's fleet, using GPS-powered tracking devices.

ENPEKEI'S booth is among the nominees for Mugna Best Booth category during the Cebu International Furniture and Furnishings Exhibition held in Cebu City from Feb. 26 to March 1.

THESE table tops use Petrified Wood as raw material. Janice Minor Export Inc. receives the Mugna Citation for material innovation during the Cebu International Furniture and Furnishings.



TAMBULI Home Accessories' Penelope wins the Mugna Award for home accessories

Brand your tables and chairs

Furniture makers urged to build names for their products

By Irene R. Sino Cruz
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—A CONSOLE TABLE DECORATED with seashells that look like jewels from afar, a floor lamp with a steel base wrapped in rattan and a throne-like sofa made from steel—these are just a few of the furniture pieces featured in the recently concluded Cebu International Furniture and Furnishings Exhibition (Cebu X).

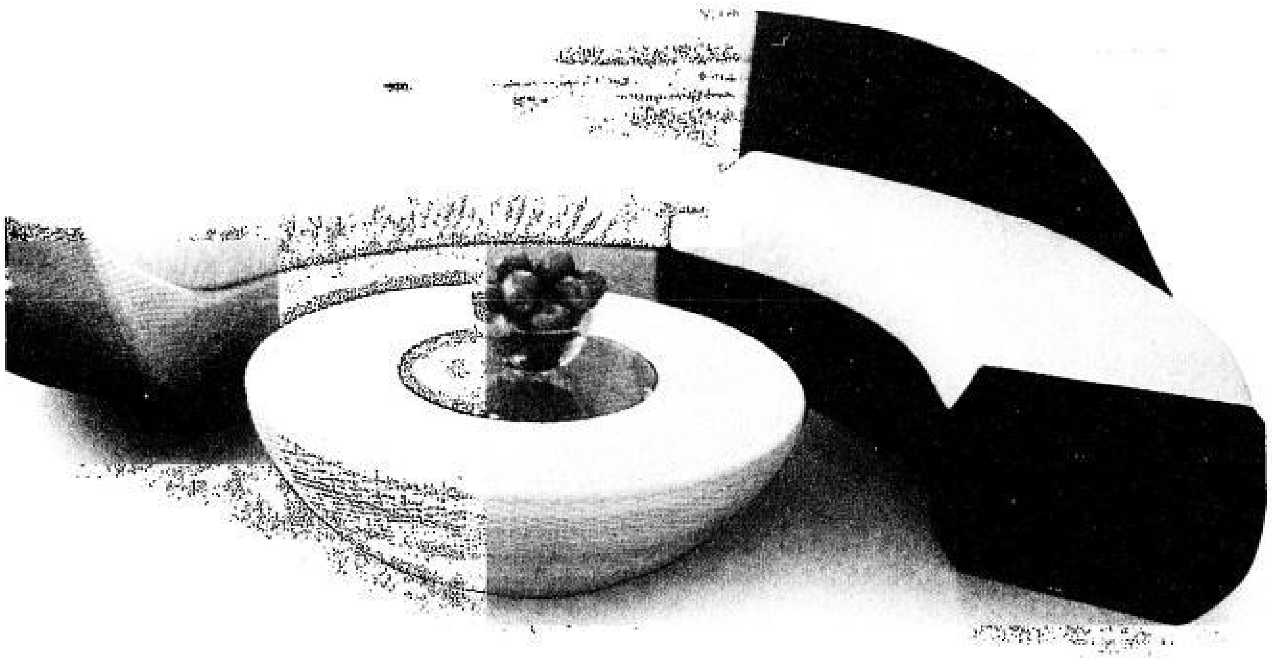
Organized by the Cebu Furniture Industry Foundation Inc. (CFIF), Cebu X is an annual show of furniture and furnishings that draws participation from Cebu, Bacolod, Manila, Pampanga and Davao.

This year's Cebu X, held in Cebu City from Feb. 26 to March 1, showcases once again the Filipino's inherent creativity.

The Noodle collection by the award-winning furniture designer Kenneth Cobonpue of the Interior Crafts of the Islands Inc. featured sturdy but artful pieces made of noodle-shaped rattan. Cobonpue once again reaped another honor this time for his latest collection, which won the Mugna Award for Best Indoor Furniture Design of the Cebu X.

Unlike other furniture exporters who only supply major brands in the US and Europe, Cobonpue has been selling furniture pieces under his own name, some of which are acquired by Brad Pitt. Cobonpue also designed the furniture for an entire set in the movie "Ocean's Thirteen."

The Mugna citation for material innovation went to the "Petrified Wood" of Janice Minor Export Inc., which the company transformed into tabletops while the best outdoor furniture design went to a beautiful piece called Embrace Sectional Chair by the Furniture Specialists Inc.



FURNITURE Specialist's Embrace Sectional Chair gets the judges' nod in the Mugna Award for outdoor furniture category

CFIF executive director Ruby Babao-Salutan noted that some manufacturers make use of natural materials, such as rattan and coconut, manipulated into different shapes and designs or come up with clever imitations of nature.

Salutan said rattan is making a comeback in this year's show with the material used in very creative ways.

One company even used the bones from the bulalo meal as a raw material, Salutan added. Another company also makes use of plastics to come up with furniture quite different from the monobloc chairs and tables that proliferate the market, she said.

Indeed, the Cebu X continued to give hope and inspiration to many furniture and furnishings manufacturers plagued by the stiff competition from Asian countries and burdened by other problems. Even the date of the exhibition has become a problem as it was close to the People Power anniversary, when political bickering usually occurs.

Last year, many buyers stayed away from the exhibit when the President declared a state of emergency due to reported attempts to destabilize her administration.

Salutan admitted that Cebu X is the smallest exhibition in Asia but as the only lifestyle show, it has continuously come up with good and well-designed products.

She said 85 percent of the buyers who come to the show "find what they're looking for."

Laurie Boquiren, chairperson of the Cebu X ad hoc committee, said Cebu X continues to be an ideal marketing tool for many of the furniture and furnishings companies, especially the small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Unlike the big companies, the SMEs could not afford to participate in furniture and furnishing shows abroad, Boquiren said.

The participation in the Cebu X has helped many companies create market awareness of their products and improve market access, she added.

"I could not imagine a future without Cebu X," Boquiren said.

Aside from helping companies find new markets, Salutan noted that the annual exhibit has helped develop the industry. "Cebu X has raised the bar of the furniture industry," she said.

Through the years, the CFIF has implemented stricter standards for Cebu X participants, who are thoroughly screened, to ensure that they could meet the standards, the volume and scheduled date of delivery required by the buyers, Salutan said.

And, to ensure that the Cebu X continues to offer innovative designs, the CFIF came up with the design and product development program as a preparation for this year's show.

The project, implemented through a funding subsidy of the CFIF and the Pearl2 of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), involved 26 exhibitors of the show. These companies have been participating in the show over the years and have an in-house design team with a capability of using new materials in designing products.

Two of the country's leading industrial designers, Carlo Tanseco and Val Padilla, along with three designers from the Product Development and Design Center of the Philippines, Art Delgado, James Non and Rowe Requejo, formed the pool of design consultants.

While CFIF wanted more companies to join in the project, many refused for varied reasons, Boquiren said. However, the companies saw how the design project helped improve the output of the participating companies and many have decided to join the project, she said.

The CFIF targets about 80 participants for the project that would culminate in next year's Cebu X, Boquiren said.

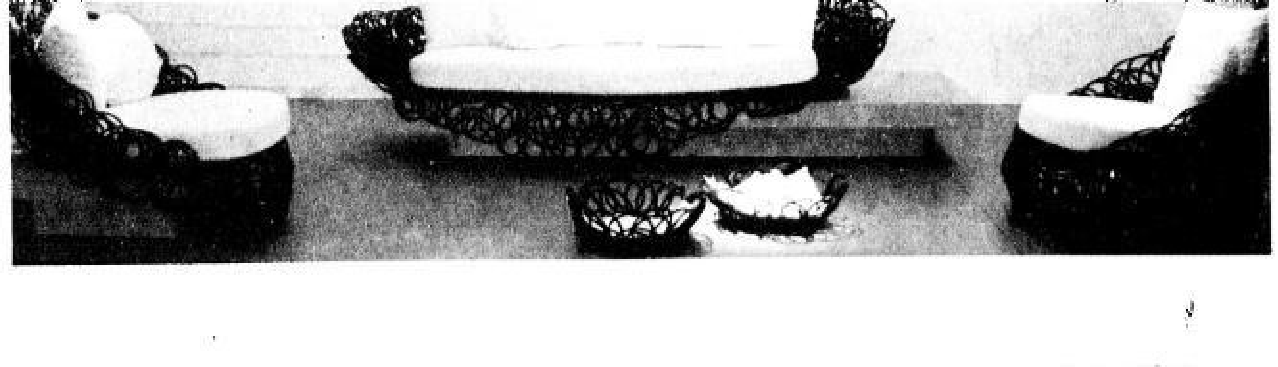
With the growing competition, she urged companies to join the project, which enables them to capitalize on their strengths. "If you're good at making tables, then the project helps you to come up with innovative designs and creative use of raw materials for tables," Boquiren said.

Many companies have been doing well that they became complacent and the looks of their furniture are becoming stale, she said. The project would address this concern, she added.

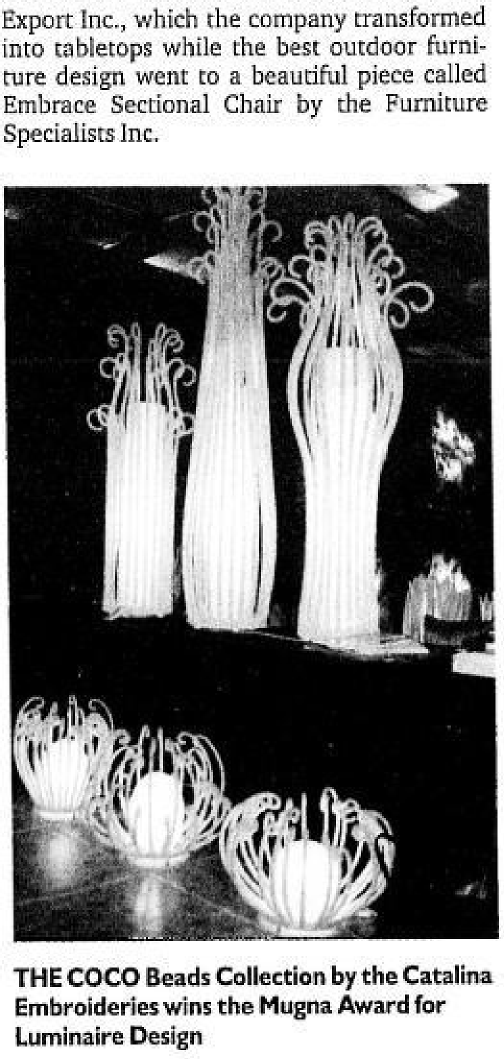
On the other hand, Cobonpue urges Filipino furniture makers to take the risk of developing their own brand. Only by developing their own brand could they compete in the global market, where emerging suppliers such as China and Vietnam flood the market with inexpensive furniture, he pointed out.

Cobonpue said it took him about three years for the global market to start recognizing and buying his furniture pieces but his efforts have paid off.

Both Boquiren and Salutan maintained that the furniture industry still has good prospects but the companies must be able to react to the changes in the market to survive the competition.



THE NOODLE Collection by Kenneth Cobonpue of Interior Crafts of the Islands wins the Mugna Award for indoor category.



THE COCO Beads Collection by the Catalina Embroideries wins the Mugna Award for Luminaire Design

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Sizzling summer** fashion /D1-3
■ **The scents** of Creed /E1

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LIFE-STYLED
Thelma Sioson San Juan

Finally, Auggie Cordero to stage show

After a long absence, the reclusive Manila designer and trendsetter will mount a gala

AFTER SIX YEARS OF SHUNning the fashion limelight, **Auggie Cordero** is finally having a gala show this year. All that's needed is his signature on the dotted line of the contract.

One of oddest things to do is to negotiate a business contract with your best friend who's as odd, if not odder, than you. I myself have experienced that. I had been trying to make Auggie agree to show his collection in the past year or two, every time I'd get the chance to dine in his house.

Of course, it didn't help that he's the most reclusive designer in town, used to his comfort routine of home, atelier, then back.

Auggie cocoons himself in a house overflowing with books, magazines, DVDs (betamaxes before)—thousands and thousands of them.

It's well-known in the lifestyle circle that Auggie is an insomniac who laps up books and DVDs until the crack of dawn. Nothing and no one can disrupt that routine.

Having set many of Manila's major trends for almost three decades, Auggie is at that stage when he feels he deserves to be off the fast lane, at least where hype and publicity are concerned.

Auggie has one of the busiest ateliers in town. His clientele is the A-list (paying, take note) that any designer would die for. The past years he's done many of the most prominent weddings in town.

So it wasn't easy to talk him into having a gala, part of the year-long Samsung-sponsored Metrowear, with Metro Magazine.

In his case, the Auggie Cordero Gala will be done with Metro Society, sister magazine of Metro.

Not known to many, ironically, it was **Inno Sotto** who had been egging me on to convince Auggie to do a major show. The fashion industry has always pitted the two against each other. Theirs is one of the healthiest and most dynamic rivalries Philippine fashion has seen; and it has benefited the industry somehow.

Auggie says he's both excited and apprehensive about his coming show. Honestly, though, I don't sense he's nervous. I feel he's excited.

Now our dinners are mostly all about his collection and the music he's putting together as backdrop. He knows exactly what he wants and what to do—that's so Auggie.

He will do more than 70 pieces, but edit the collection down to a little more than 40 pieces. That's how tight Auggie's editing can be.

The collection is already neatly done in his mind. All that's left to be done is the sewing and finishing. His fabrics and accessories have already been selected. (Auggie is known to have the deepest stock of fabrics in town.)

What will his collection be?

"I can't make something that's not me," he says. "It's the greatest coincidence that global fashion is now romantic and feminine, and that's so me."

Auggie plans to present an entire collection—from tailored ensembles, which he's known for, to cocktail dresses, evening gowns and bridal gowns. As in every Cordero collection, the audience must not miss out the detail. Details compose the look and innovation, Auggie has often said.

"I aim to please myself, the audience, but I can't be boring also," he says. "I hope I can show the younger crowd what I do best."

Auggie admits to feeling some insecurity now that he's doing a show after a long absence.

Auggie insecure? That's a rare admission from one who's very opinionated and deliberate. A vulnerable Auggie—I love that, for a change.

Single-minded Nes

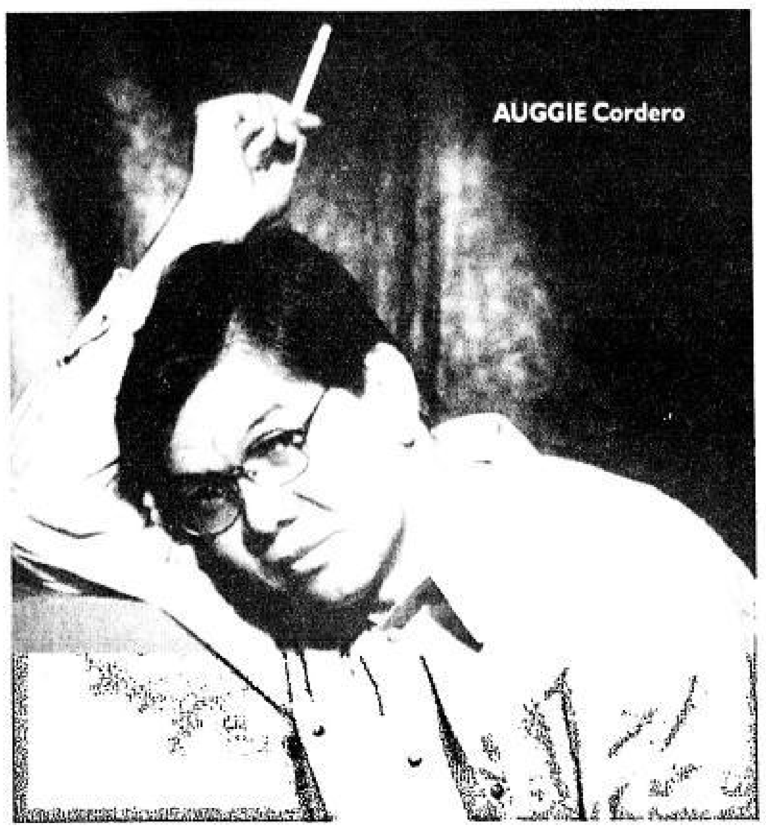
Talk about firm and purposeful individuals. The country is fortunate to have one of them in a position where he's able to effect change. That's **Nes Jardin**, president of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

We hope tonight the CCP Main Theater will see a packed crowd for "Virtuoso Strings," a rare gathering of Filipino artists, with two foreign artists as guests. It is Nes' major project this year which aims to raise funds for the culture institution.

But more than shows and programs, Nes is at the forefront of working for the recognition of the creative industries in the country. He and other culture leaders aim to show that the country's creative persons—from artists to writers even to culinary artists—are a major source of revenue for the government, just like in other countries.

It's an uphill climb in a country that can't seem to think out of the box, can't seem to think, period.

Tonight's lineup has violinist **Coke Bolipata**, cellist **Renato Lucas**, the UST Guitar Ensemble and Guitar Quartet, Cainta Los Trobadores Rondalla, soprano **Rachelle Gerodias**, Ballet Philippines, Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, Metro Manila Community Orchestra, UST Symphony Orchestra, German violinist **Angelo Bard**, French classical guitarist **Thibault Cauvin**, and **Chino Toledo** as music director and conductor.



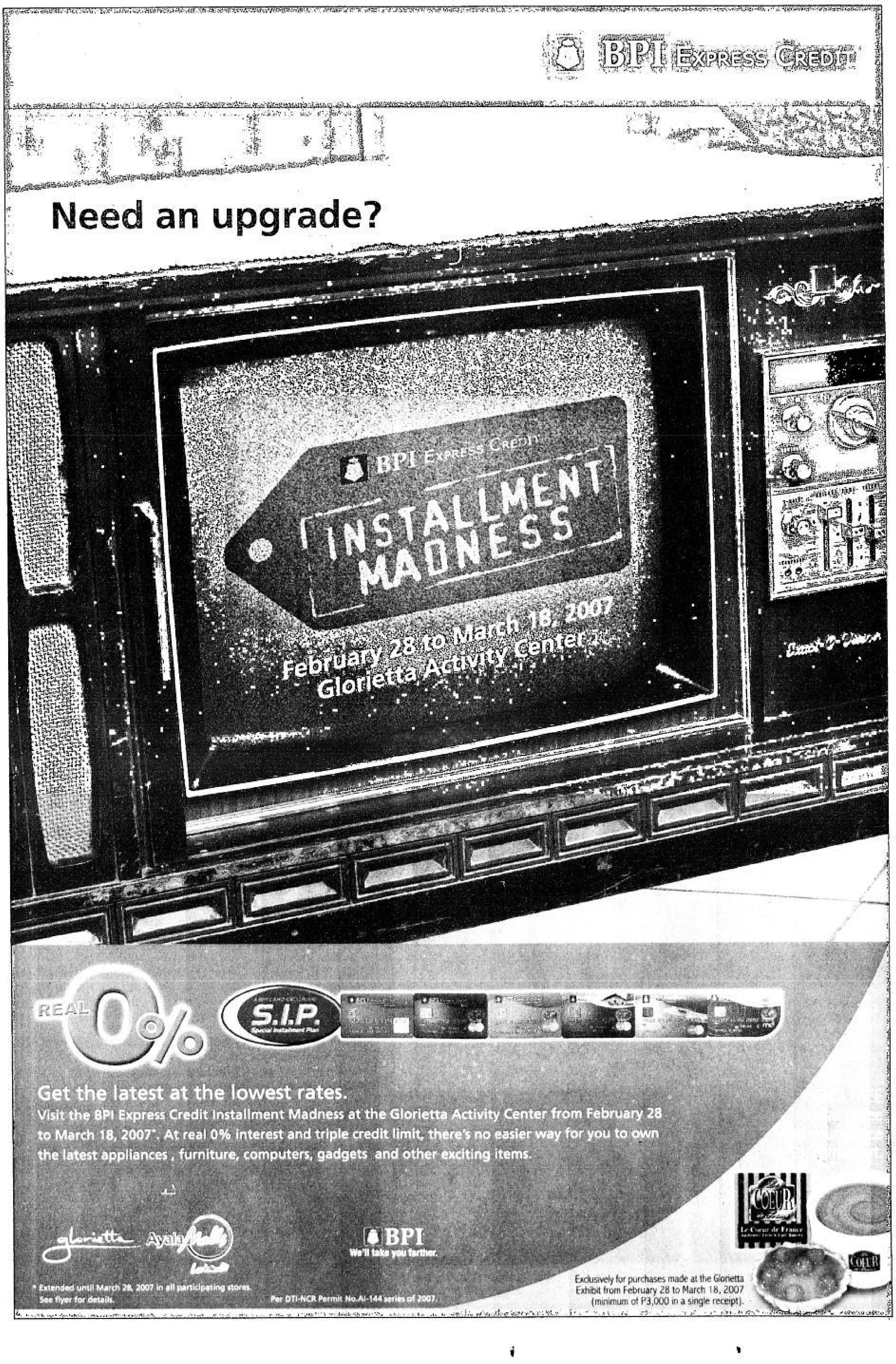
AUGGIE Cordero

Bobby at Hyatt

The alumni models and designers of Hyatt are still on a high after that once-in-a-blue-moon reunion/fashion show in **Chito Madrigal Collantes'** home. Their e-mail is clogged with renewed correspondence.

In fact, they're taking up **Gary Flores'** idea of staging a bigger reunion next year—this time a reprise of the famous "Bagong Anyo." It will be called "Bagong Anyo 30 years later," to be staged in a big venue.

Meanwhile, **Bobby Caballero** corrects our previous column—he never directed a show at Tower Hotel, but instead took over Gary's post at the Hyatt for six months. (Sorry, I'm not old enough to remember.)



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THE CELEBRATOR, mega banker Felix Amparo (standing) with the hostess, his wife Tessie De Jesus A.; (seated) Sen. Manny Villar, Sen. Serge Osmeña, Bettina Lopez Osmeña, Daisy Payumo and Rep. Cynthia Villar

A rose for birthday boy Tony

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

THAT HOTSHOT CHAIR OF GE MONEY Bank Philippines, popular **Felix Amparo**, turned another year, and his birthday was hosted by his attractive, fashionable wife **Tessie de Jesus A.**, *palanggas*. The bash got on a roll with a mass officiated by the *famille*'s close pal, Msgr. **Nico Bautista.** The mass was followed by the excellent buffet dinner, superbly catered by The Plaza.

The celebrator's fellow Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Makati, together with his business associates and close pals, enjoyed the poetry recitation by close buddy **Dr. Tony Oposa**. The past president of the Philippine Medical Association recited and dedicated several poems to the celebrator, including the beautiful "Give Me a Rose."

In an impromptu concert after dinner, former Solicitor General **Frank Chavez** , who is always in demand at parties to sing a couple of songs, as well as ex-SGV chair **Charlie Alindada** and gracious hostess **Tessie Amparo** had the invitees begging for more, more, more, *palanggas*!

Lunar year gig

The traffic was horrendous, but it was understandable, *palanggas*, since all roads led to the hard-to-beat Shangri-La Makati, for a true, lavish and luxurious happening as world-renowned bank Hongkong Shanghai Banking Corp. once again staged the Chinese-New-Year-party-to-beat-all parties, dahlings!

Celebrating the Year of the Fire Boar, over 700 HSBC and corporate hotshots rediscovered the many wonders and facets of the royal Emperor's court.

The foyer of the Makati Shangri-La's ballroom was lined up with gorgeous scenes from the grand Emperor's court, including two photo galleries where we could have our photos taken with the emperor and empress.

Meanwhile, at the center of the foyer, was a pagoda where a tea ceremony was conducted and being served.

Entertaining endlessly were the bank's first couple—dashing president and CEO **Mark Watkinson** and his beautiful sky blue-eyed adorable wife, **Sarah W.**, dahlings.

Naturellement the highlight of the evening was the absolutely delicious and excellently prepared nine-course Chinese Lauriat with each dish carefully selected, "to bring fortune, prosperity and good health to all those who would partake of it," according to the chef, dahlings.

The stage was gorgeously decorated in red and gold like the royal court of the Imperial Palace, where stage actors performed excerpts from traditional Chinese opera.

Some of the songs and spiels were even done in Mandarin. *Moi* didn't understand a single word, but who cares? I had a great time feeling *moi* was at the Royal Court during the Ching Dynasty, *palanggas*.

Adding more spice, HSBC raffled off tons of fantastic prizes, including a trip for two to exotic, exciting China, courtesy of my true pal, Philippine Airlines, *natch*.

But then, isn't this so HSBC, *palanggas*?

Health-prone Milo

Thirty-one years and still running strongly!

Every one loves to be in a fast-paced martathon or at least watch one, *palanggas*. And it had to take Milo to get tons of individuals running together for a healthier body.

It was no surprise at all that "healthier body" was the battle cry of Milo, when it launched the 31st edition of the highly successful National Milo Marathon, definitely the country's longest-running and most prestigious running competition, dahlings.

Launched at the Manila Bay Ballroom of Bayview Park Hotel Manila, the 31st National Milo Marathon will make its way to 23 awesome cities across the country, "as it continues in its mission to discover champion marathoners while giving Filipinos a great platform to lead an active and healthy lifestyle," said Milo officials.

The exciting marathon action will be at Batangas City, Puerto Princesa, Malolos, Tarlac, General Santos, Zamboanga, Davao, Manila, Tagbilaran, Tacloban, Cebu, Dumaguete, Roxas, Iloilo, Naga, Legazpi, San Pablo, Cagayan de Oro, Iligan, Butuan, Laoag, Tuguegarao and Baguio.

There are several complementary events such as the 3K Kiddie run and 42K final race, *palanggas*.

When the Milo run started in 1974, there were only 767 runners. Last year, there were an awesome 182,000 participants, *palanggas*.

After 30 years, and still running, Milo declares, "Let's go further!"

Flip-flop haven

After being found in different outlets in *Cosmo Manille* and Cebu, now, it has finally found its own home ground, *palanggas*. The largest Havaianas store in the world has opened with the fantastic launching of the All Flip-Flops flagship store at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

The entire town came to celebrate. They were welcomed by **Geronimo Begre** of All Flip-Flops and **Anne Gonzalez** of Terry SA, the sole distributor of Havaianas in the country.

El simpatico **Marcos Morastico**, hotshot Havaianas manager for Asia and the Pacific, jetted in to attend this happening, showing the Brazilian company's support for the new All Flip-Flops store.

A massive colorful fireworks display and a Brazilian toast from singer **Nyko** got the party on a roll, *palanggas*.

Like a school of piranhas, the guests attacked the authentic Brazilian dishes. The theme of the party was "Making your Own Caipirinhas," in reference to the Brazilian liquor, so that everywhere, guests raised their caipirinhas-filled glasses and greeted each other "*Saude!*"

With the endless choice of Havaianas on display and the special discounts that night, several invitees went home carrying more than one pair of flip-flops. I know *moi* did.

Check out the new shop on the real cool Bonifacio High Street!

Correction to last week's column. The photo showing Dr. Arnel Nuguid was wrongly identified as Smart's Ricky Isla. Meanwhile, the photo showing Isla was identified as Nuguid. Our apologies.

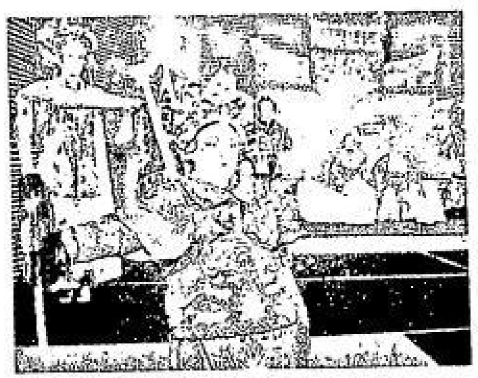
MILO sports event executive Pat Goc-ong (center) with Publicis-Manila executives Paolo Cabanero, Myk Merelos, Cathy Arguelles and Rinna Platon

DEPED NCR education supervisors Dafrosa Zagala and Cricelda Marte

NATIONAL Milo Marathon male champ Julius Sermona and race director Rudy Biscocho

THROUGH the years, the National Milo Marathon has given Filipinos a great venue to test their athletic mettle and have fun while pursuing a healthy lifestyle.

ADIDAS sports marketing manager Goody Custodio



THE Royal Court at the Emperor Palace

HSBC's first lady, adorable Sarah Watkinson, and my fave traffic-stopper, INQUIRER's Tessa Prieto-Valdes

MA. LUISA Velayo and HSBC's SVP for private banking Ailene Litonjua

MOI with HSBC's AVP public affairs AVP Cat Manese and Pepper Teehankee

BRILLIANT MEN: HSBC's Global Markets SVP, treasurer and head Wick Veloso and JG Summit Holdings' president/COO Lance Gokongwei

SILK Cocoon's young talented women of stature, Frances Lim and Katrina Feist

LIANNE Tiu with Jerry C. Tiu and HSBC's SVP PFS business development and support Claire Ann Yap

BROTHERS TWO: Ace photographer Alex Van Hagen and his brother, one of Europe's top etching artists, Hans Van Hagen, pose with the empress of the ball.

GUESTS include Nonoy Alindogan, Ben Catindig, Cory Alindogan and Joe Alejandro

PRETTY as a picture. Kinny Salas with Net Vizconde, Carina Amparo and architect Joe Dizon

PHILIPPINE Ambassador to Italy Philip Lhuillier

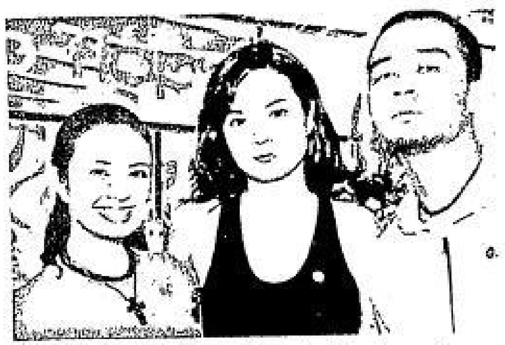
INVITEES Lita Ascalon and Lexie Dizon

FRANK and Jean Chavez

WASHINGTON and Pizza Lou with Caleng and Roland Young

MARCOS Morastico, Havaianas manager for Asia and the Pacific

LOVE BIRDS. Paolo Soler and Cat Juan



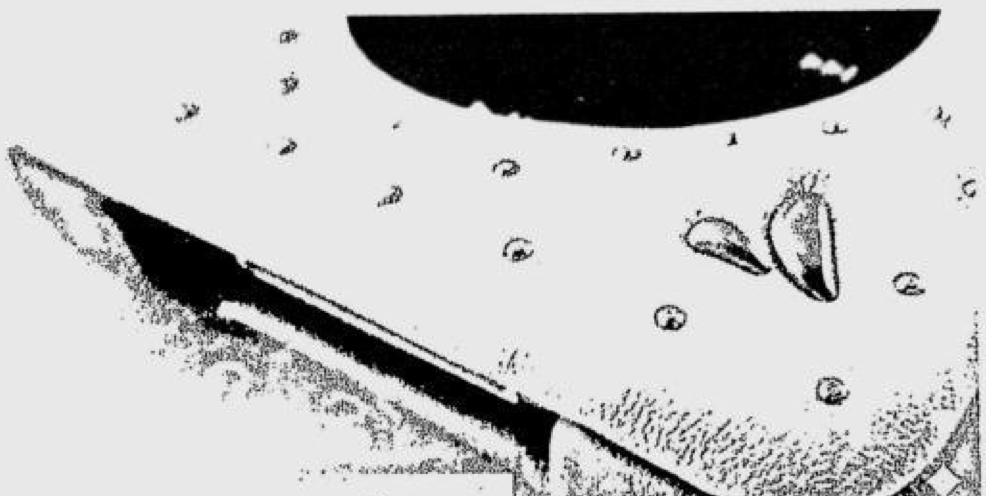
MONICA Llamas with Jennie Garcia and Marc Abaya

ALL Flip-Flops owner Geronimo Begre welcomes the invitees.

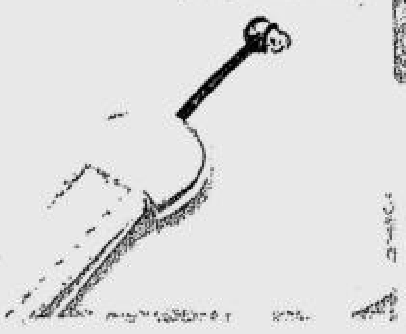
CHESKA Garcia and Ruby Gan

HSBC's SVP and head of corporate banking division Junie Veloso with Southeast Asia and Foods Inc.'s chair and CEO Butch Campos; Insurance commissioner Evangeline Escobillo; BSP governor Amando Tetangco Jr.; fab hostess Sarah Watkinson; Bankers Association of the Philippines' executive director Topper Coronel; and HSBC's president/CEO, tall and handsome Mark Watkinson

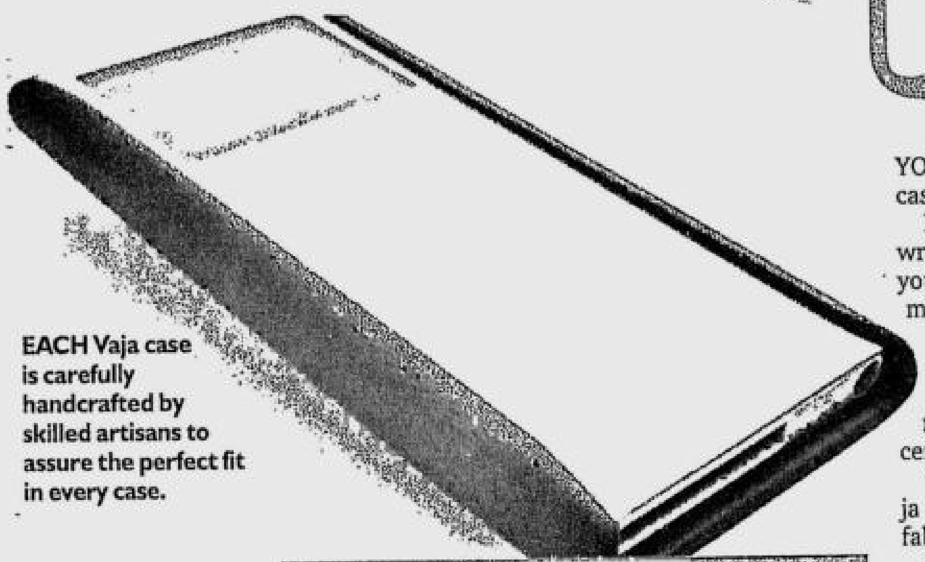
VAJA cases are made only from full-grain cowhide from the top 10 percent of Argentina's best rich leather.



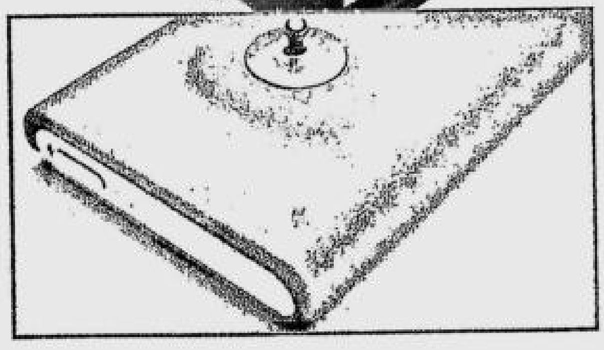
THE LIMITED-EDITION Swarovski-encrusted Vaja cases will make your iPod sparkle and shine.



EVERY detail of the Vaja case is a masterpiece in itself.



EACH Vaja case is carefully handcrafted by skilled artisans to assure the perfect fit in every case.



NO CREASE or gap in every fold or curve can be found in the Vaja case.

Case in point

YOU DON'T NEED A JUDGE TO TELL YOU IF YOU HAVE a case to plead or not.

If you've had an iPod and have not bothered to get a wrap for it all this time, haul your sorry little youknowwhat to the store and get a case for your little music box.

Truth is, only a genuine leather Vaja case can atone for your neglect.

Sleek and stylish just like your iPod, Vaja cases are made only from full-grain cowhide from the top 10 percent of Argentina's best leather.

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Allergic to leather? Vaja cases are hypoallergenic.

Vaja cases come in different rich, vibrant colors to suit your discriminating taste. They also come in limited-editions that are accented with Swarovski crystals.

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Editor: Chelo Banal-Formoso

Contributing Editors:
Apples Aberin-Sadhwani
and Jenni Epperson

FASHION

ON LUCIA: brown one-piece swimwear with gold belt from Minx (0917-8460007); neckpiece by Nicole Wisenhunt

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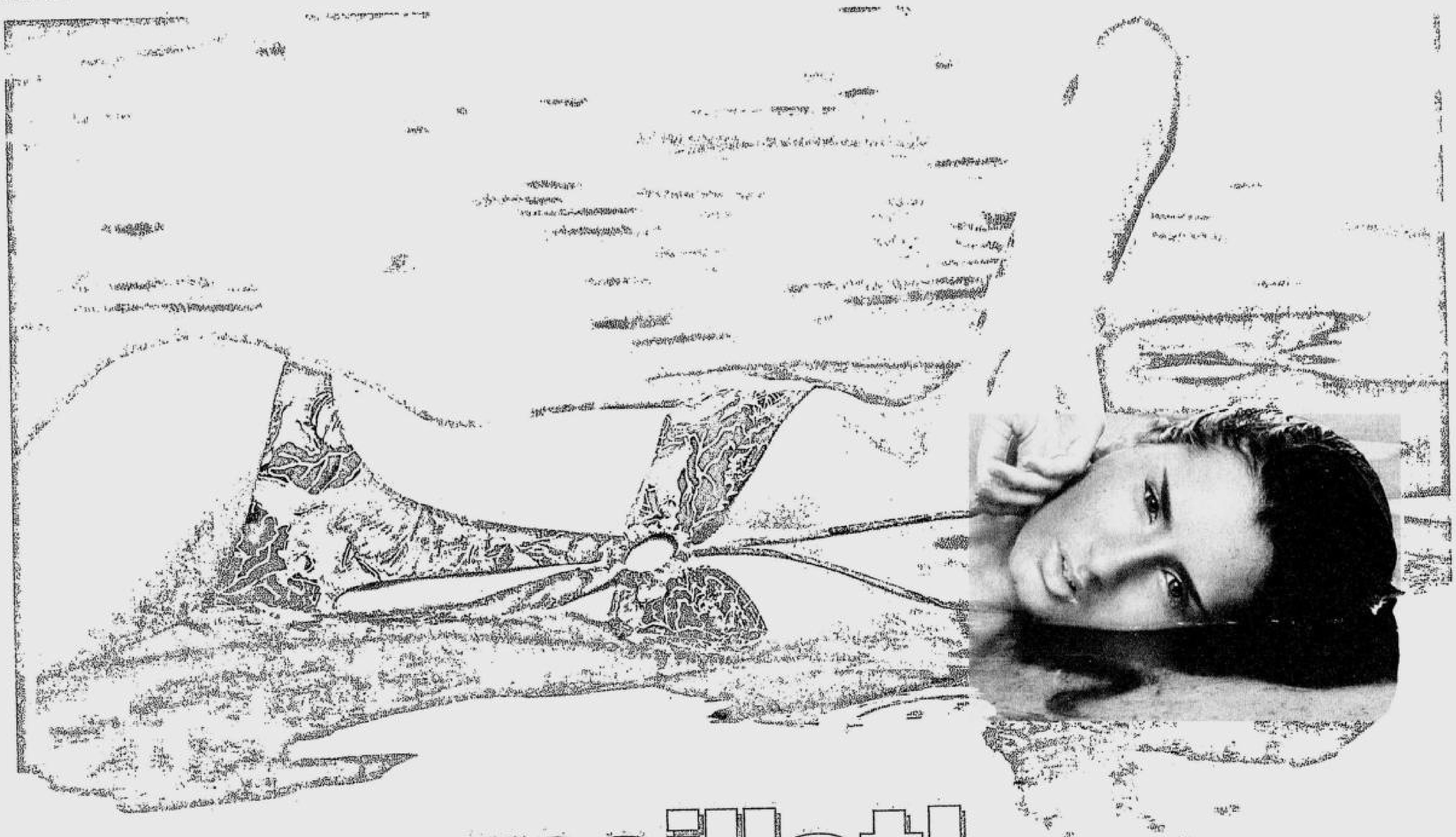
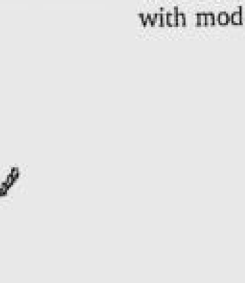


Mad for maillot!

Curves ahead
Pink floral maillot from Lae swimwear

THE LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE two-piece swimsuit is officially coming to an end. Nowadays, the maillot or one-piece bathing suit is finally sharing centerstage with skimpy bikinis as the choice of swimwear for the fashionable, far-from-frumpy crowd.

APPLES' PICKINGS



Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

You don't have to don a two-piece swimsuit to be considered sexy and hip. Current maillot designs are, in fact, more daring than your average bikini. They're usually cut down to there and slashed to little bits of nothing. But don't panic just yet, as there are also less audacious versions to suit more timid personalities.

The best part about a one-piece is that it's far more forgiving than its two-piece counterpart. It's just too difficult to hide a distressing bulge when wearing a bikini. With a maillot, you can easily play up assets and disguise flaws. A maillot can give much-needed support as well as provide clever shaping.

If you're ready to try out this season's most fashionable swimsuit style, just keep in mind that the right one should always make the most of your proportions. It's all about a careful play of colors, lines, textures and details like shirring or ruching.

It's also important to choose fabric with at least 15 percent Spandex to help minimize flabby areas. Choice of color is another important consideration. So make sure you choose a hue that's flattering to your skin tone and body type.

To help you find the perfect maillot to enhance your body type, here are a few more simple tips to keep in mind:

- **Enhance a small chest** with the use of details like ruching, shirring, ruffles or smocking on top that create the illusion of volume. Slightly padded tops are also an option, as are printed materials that draw attention away from small breasts.
- **Minimize a full chest** with a high-cut, square-neck or tank-style suit. The suit must offer ample bust support to avoid sagging or drooping breasts. The bottom half of the suit must also be wide enough to achieve balance and proportion. Just a little caveat: Beware of the uni-breast look!
- **Create a shapely waist and hide bulges** by choosing a suit with gathers or shirring on one side or draping that falls across the stomach area. A swimsuit that's cut out at the sides, has a sash or belt or a chevron pattern can also whittle the waistline.
- **Elongate legs and trim thunder thighs** with a suit that's cut high on the hips. Styles with moderately high legs are good options, as they lengthen legs without exposing too much flesh. Boy legs are fashion don'ts because they make legs appear stumpy.
- **Make hips and butt appear slimmer** by using dark color blocks on the bottom half of the swimsuit. For contrast, the suit bodice can be in a brighter color or pattern. A lighter-top, darker-bottom combination will give the illusion of a slimmer waist while drawing attention to the upper body. Full seat coverage for ample lift and control is also a major consideration, while details or hems that end at the hipline must be avoided.
- **Shorten a long torso** with the use of cutouts, sashes, belts or horizontal patterns that cut across the stomach.
- **Elongate a short torso** with the help of vertical patterns that draw the eye upward. Thin vertical stripes on the sides can also create the illusion of length. For the perfect fit, swimsuits in petite sizes are good options.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

Animal appeal
Animal-print one-piece swimwear from Lae; knotted headband from Risqué

Photography **JUN DE LEON**
using Phase One Digital Back
Styling **MILLET V. ARZAGA**
Hair and makeup **LOURD RAMOS**
of Emphasis Salon using Air Tan by Model Co.
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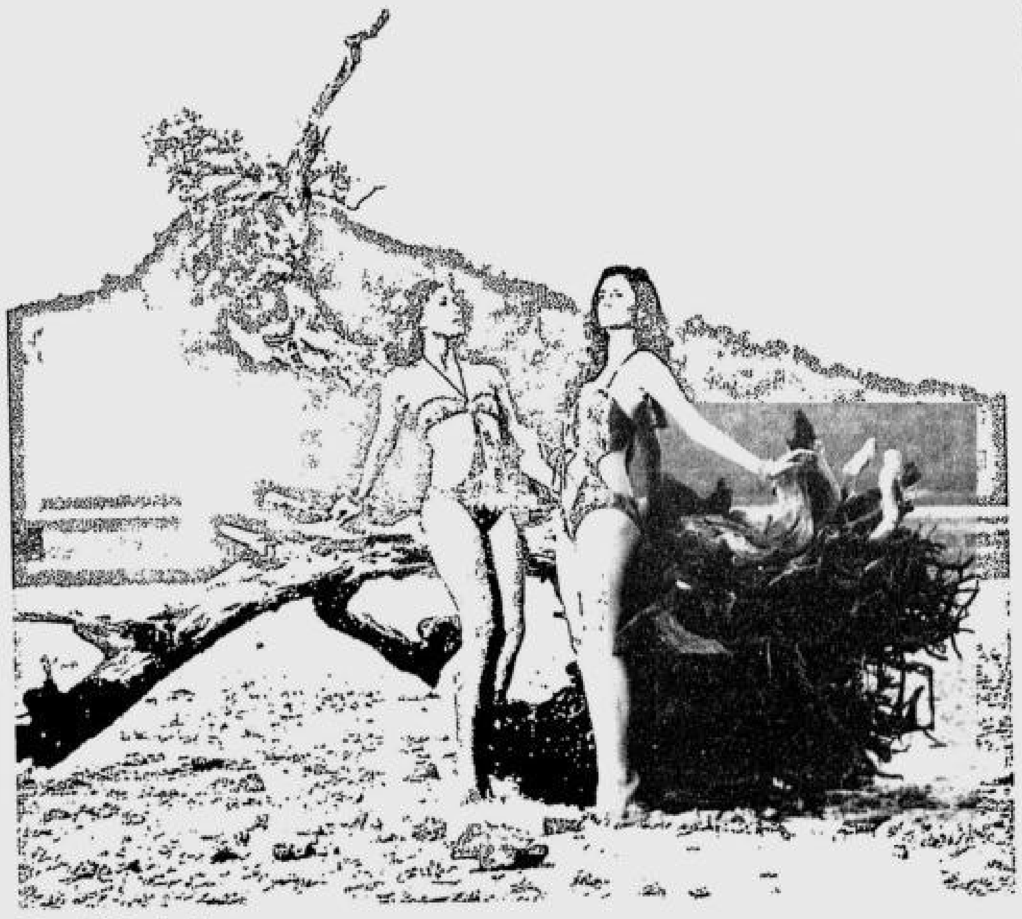
SPECIAL THANKS TO GOV JOEL REYES OF PALAWAN,
MAYOR MARJO REYES OF CORON, COUNSELOR JIM PE,
LOUIE CRUZ, SOUTH EAST ASIAN AIRLINES (SEAIR), PATRICK TAN
AND PIA DE VILLA OF SEAIR, SEA DIVE, CLUB PARADISE.



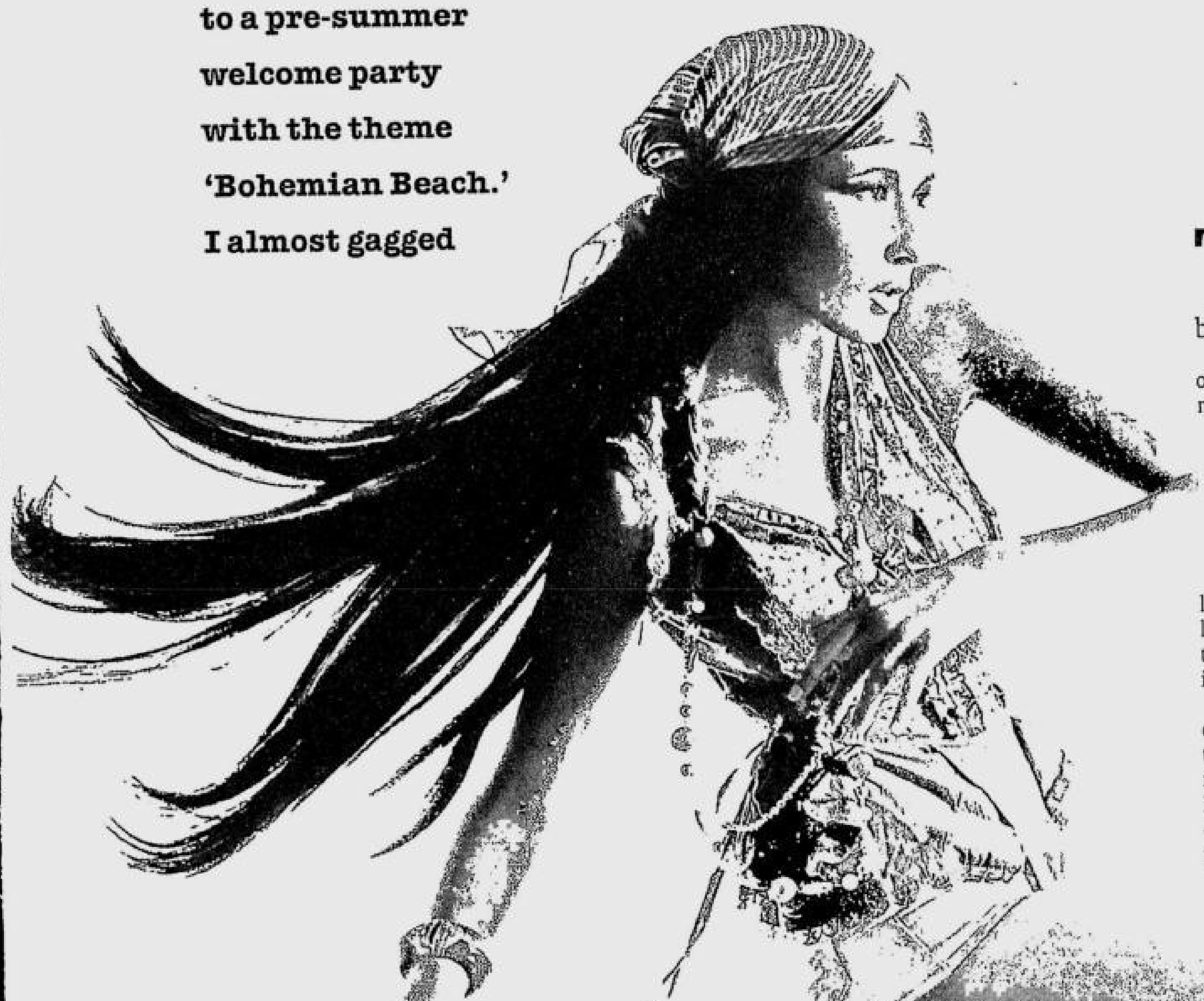
Double take
On Amy: grey animal-print maillot from Lae swimwear at 50th Ave., Robinsons Galleria.
On Lucia: maroon animal-print maillot from Risqué Darewear (0917-6225131); bangles from Anthology at Power Plant

Golden goddess
Gold one-piece swimwear with bandeau from Minx (0917-8460007); eyewear (worn as headband) by Gucci Eyewear (exclusively distributed by Newtrends Intl. Corp.)

Hot cubes.
Rust graphic-print shirtdress and orange with gold belt

[illegible]
Floral-print two-piece bikini

A friend told me she was recently invited to a pre-summer welcome party with the theme 'Bohemian Beach.' I almost gagged



Gold rush
Nude silk with lace top, orange hot pants and striped scarf

Beach polka.
Multicolored polka dot dress cinched with a tan wide belt

Orange punch.
Flower-print bikini top with boy-leg bottoms

[illegible]

Mabuhay!

Jenni Epperson

THIS SUMMER, I ADVISE ALL to contract selective amnesia, and forget that whole bohemian trend.

Boho-chic is so out that there should be obituaries in its name. Even its mothballs have gathered dust! Even true-blue bohemians think the look is ultra-pasé.

You should pack up all those long, tiered floral skirts and dresses and peasant tops that you layered on in the hopes of looking like a free-spirited gypsy, in spite of the fact that you are trapped 9 to 5 in an office cubicle.

The bohemian look may have dictated the fashion headlines at the turn of the 21st century but, to recall the immortal words of Heidi Klum, in the fashion world, one day you're in and the next day you're out.

So if boho is out, what is in? Goodbye shabby, hello chic.

The movement is called Luxe Retro. It still evokes a freedom-loving, playful and easy style, but with a bit of feminine structure. Luxe Retro gives the style statement that you can adopt freedom of expression without looking like you came from an "ugly skirt convention."

Think sleek over shabby. Look to the late '70s instead of the early '60s for inspiration. That means vintage prints in palettes of brown, mustard and tangerine. Or opt for Turkish kaftans and utilitarian pants.

One key piece that I am campaigning for as this summer's hottest item is the summer shirtdress, which is smokin' sexy even if it's not at all shoulder- or cleavage-baring. The focus shifts instead to long, tanned and toned legs. It's perfect for traipsing from the beach side to the barstool. Hot, hot!

In terms of accessorizing, avoid mindless piling of baubles and bangles. Take a moment instead to think about which key pieces would stand out. That wise old saying "less is more" applies here.

I like the look of a wide belt cinched at the waist of a vintage-print shirtdress, or a beautiful satin bandana to go perfectly with a retro maillot swimsuit. And finish it all off with high platforms—they make your legs look longer and slimmer, which flip-flops can't do.

So where to go to start building your Luxe Retro summer wardrobe? One store that has embraced the Luxe Retro revival is Tomato.

The theme of its Spring/Summer campaign is "Be Delicious!," with an attitude that exudes sexiness and flirtatious independence.

Tomato is riding on the '70s wave that still champions free expression, but mixes it up with fashion ironies.

The collection merges flower power with rebel yell, or soft romance with ultra glam. For the eternal beachy girls, I particularly recommend its floral-print swimsuits, drape jersey dresses and light summer knits.

Say it with me—Luxe Retro. Apart from a good sunblock, this is what you should be wearing this summer!

Tomato stores are located in Glorietta 2, SM Mall of Asia, SM Megamall, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Metro East, SM City Manila, SM City San Lazaro, SM City Sta. Mesa, SM Supercenter Sucat, SM Supercenter Valenzuela and SM City Sta. Rosa.

E-mail jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

ON Vince Uy: top, jacket, cardie all from Topshop; pants from A|X; shoe from Vans. On Wilma Doesnt: outfit from Ignacio Loyola. On Ruffa Gutierrez: gown by Puey Quinones; shoes from Gaupo. On Robbie Carmona: outfit from Joey Samson. On Pauline Suaco-Juan: dress from DVF; platforms from Zara. On Xander Angeles: shirt from Team Manila; pants from Viktor Jeans

Photography ERWIN BARLETA for Edgeof Light

Model behavior

TYRA'S DISCIPLES HAVE NOW reached our shores, as the hit reality TV show, "America's Next Top Model," launches a Philippine franchise, thanks to Solar Entertainment.

Philippines' Next Top Model is all set to search for the country's next big fashion icon. Actress/model and former beauty queen Ruffa Gutierrez will head the search by taking ordinary young women and turning them into potentially supermodels who embody the strength and confidence of the modern-day Filipina.

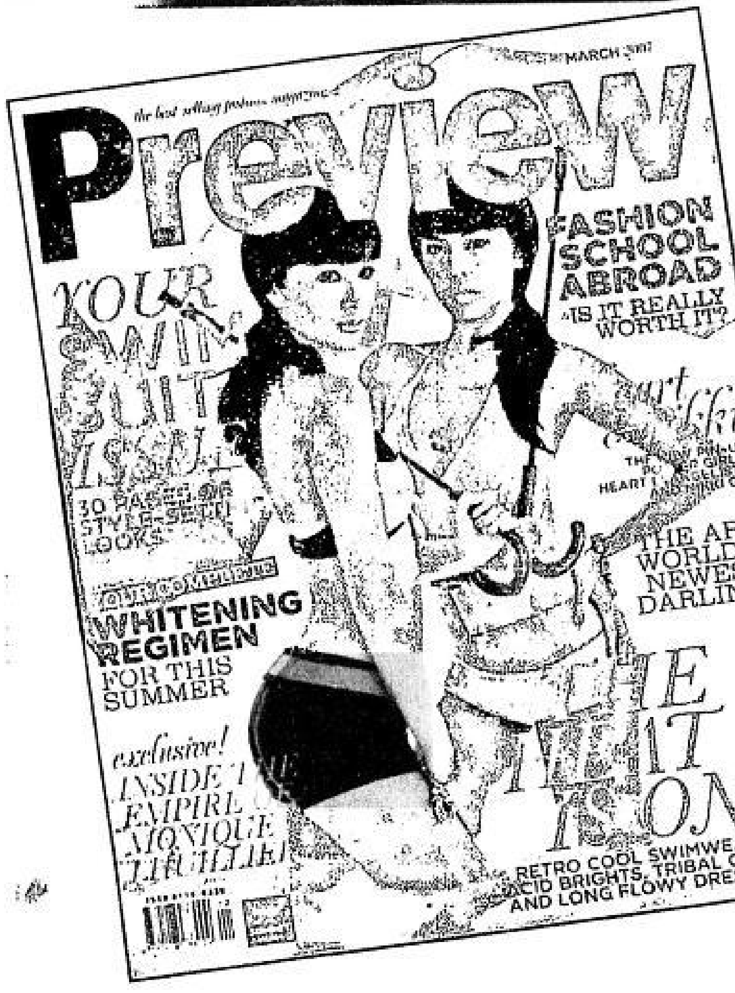
A cast of young, hopeful Filipino women from diverse backgrounds will vie for the coveted modeling contract. Call it a modeling boot camp—the girls will undergo a slew of photo shoots, catwalks and crash courses taught by the country's top fashion industry experts. The show has fielded a top-notch creative team, from up-and-coming designers and creative directors to renowned photographers, makeup artists and stylists.

A great part of the show's success are the fierce and famous judges themselves: "enfant terrible" Robby Carmona, one of the industry's most sought-after fashion directors; and fashion mavens Pauline Suaco-Juan and Vince Uy, respectively the Editor-in-Chief and Creative Director of leading fashion magazine Preview.

In order to maintain its high level of quality entertainment, PNTM instills the concept of beauty that begins with one's self, the acceptance and celebration of our own roots and a heritage that defines our Filipino identity. PNTM values the intrinsic qualities of Filipino women that cross the borders of age, ethnicity and social status, thus showcasing inner beauty at its finest.

Philippines, get ready for something fierce!

Philippines' Next Top Model airs every Wednesday premiers March 13 8:30 p.m. on RPN9. *JE*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Bathing beauties

The heat is on! Grab a copy of the March issue of Preview Magazine, featuring pin-up pretties Heart Evangelista and Nikki Gil on the cover, now available in all leading bookstores and magazine stands nationwide at P120 per copy.

FASHION BUZZ

Hot, haute, hot news!

New Guard

Congratulations to the new officers of The Young Designer's Guild, who had their elections last March 5. Patty Eustaquio, YDG's new president aims to professionalize the association even more by setting up an office and providing buyers a collective fashion preview every couple of months. She also plans to stage a major fashion show every year. The new officers are Mitzi Quelendrino, vice president, Louis Claparol, secretary, and Reian Mata, treasurer. Fashion alumni of the YDG include such stellar names like Ivarluski Aseron, Joey Samson and James Reyes.

YDG president
Patty Eustaquio

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Via Ortigas Extension- From Ortigas Avenue, go straight all the way to Ortigas Extension. Turn right when you reach the Circumferential Road marked by a Triangle. (You'll arrive at an intersection with Shopwise on your left and Seven-Eleven right across it). Turn right to M.L. Quezon Avenue. Turn right at Mille Luce drive and you're there!

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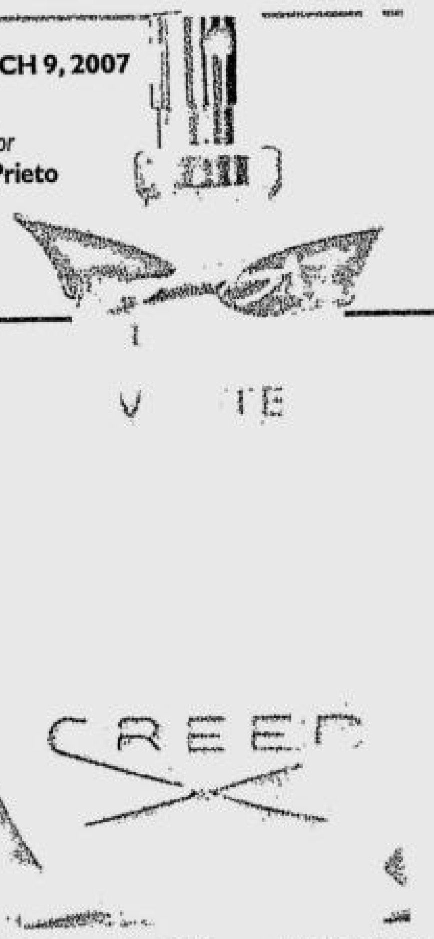
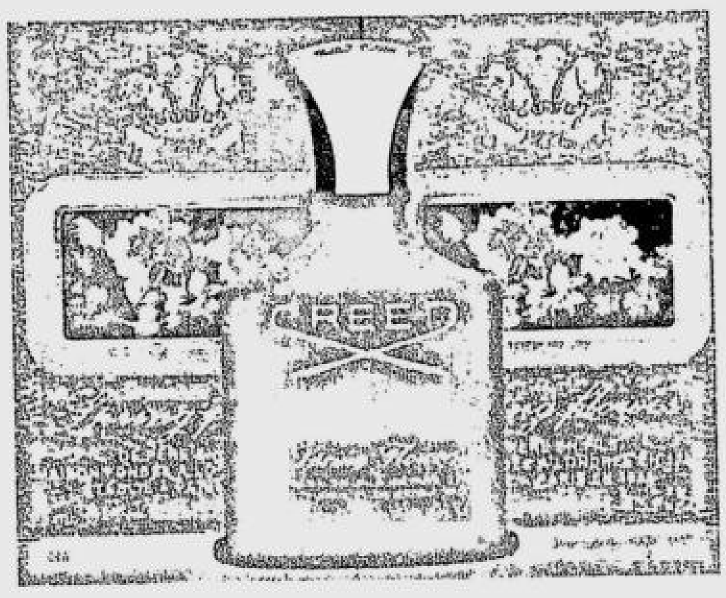


LOVE IN WHITE. Created by Olivier and Erwin Creed as a tribute to the victims of 9/11, this is a floral-Oriental fragrance with rice among its ingredients.



SPRING FLOWER. This floral-fruity scent has fans in Julia Roberts and Naomi Campbell.

THE CREED store in Rustan's Makati

BEAUTY

True to the Creed

The luxury perfume comes to the Philippines

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Rudy Esperas

CREATING A FRAGRANCE IS LIKE POETRY, according to Erwin Creed. But instead of words, you reproduce the smell in your head through an artistic and complex mathematical combination of natural essences, he explained.

Erwin is seventh in the Creed family line of luxury perfumers. He was in town this week to open the company's first store in the Philippines, which is one of only four countries in Asia to carry the highly exclusive brand.

Creed, creator of fine fragrances from the purest natural essences, has been the favored supplier of the royal courts of Europe since its founding nearly 250 years ago in London. Known for its unique olfactory concoctions and, naturally, exclusive price points, Creed has an impressive list of contemporary patrons that include from Queen Elizabeth II, Madonna, David Beckham, George Clooney, Angelina Jolie and Julia Roberts.

Even then, Erwin stressed: "We don't give our fragrances to celebrities [in order for them to wear it]. We don't believe in that. They buy."

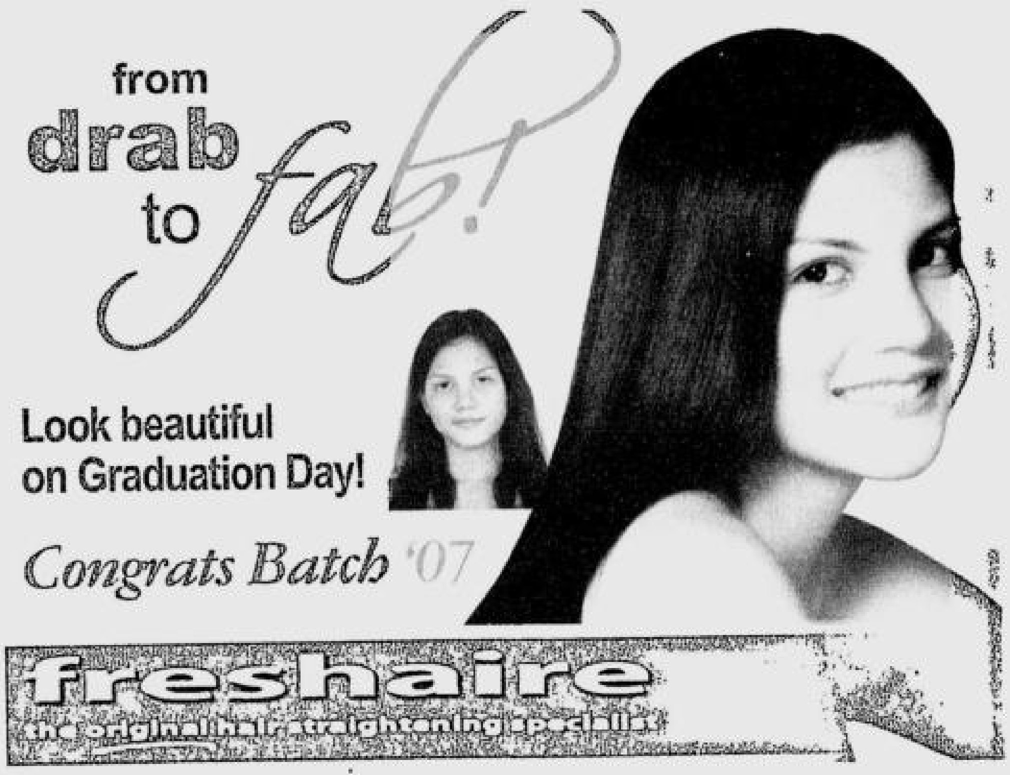
Creed the company is old school in many ways. In spite of tempting offers from conglomerates to acquire the brand, the Creeds have stood firm in their resolve to keep it in the family.

"This way we're able to do what we want," the young heir explained. "We're not into mass market; we don't rush things and make the quality suffer. There's no pressure on us [from a bigger firm] so we can take risks." He goes on to name some respected fragrance houses whose fates have suffered after being bought by large corporations.

By tradition, Creed has also never relied on advertising. "We want only the markets that understand that it's not just a fragrance. They understand that it takes the most expensive natural essences to create a perfume. It's an artisanal product."

Remaining small, it seems, hasn't hurt the Creed business, one of the most successful privately owned fragrance houses. It prod-

TRUE/ E2


from drab to fab!

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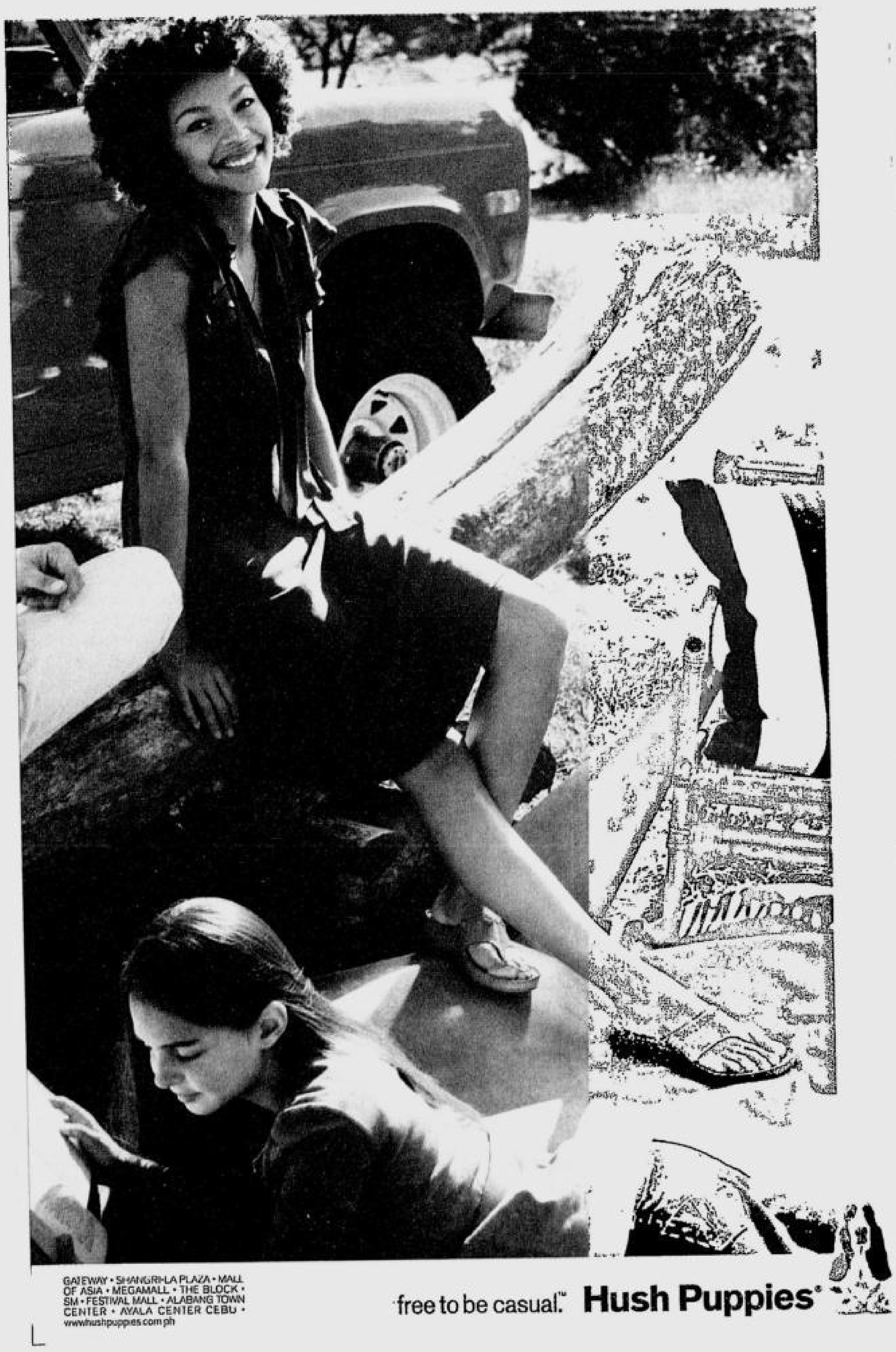
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Smoothening out the skin for summer exposure

Kinny Salas

THOSE NASTY RED and white bumps on the arms, shoulders and thighs! Some call them chicken skin while others mistake them for stubborn whiteheads. At any rate, the condition makes skin rough and prevents women from wearing sleeveless blouses and short skirts to survive the summer heat.

The scientific name for the condition is Keratosis Pilaris (KP). It is passed on through genetics and when left alone, will improve with age.

What really happens? The skin's surface renews itself every 28 days where the surface gets exfoliated and new skin emerges. With KP, new skin is created fast—up to three to five times faster than normal.

Dead skin now accumulates underneath with blocked hair follicles clogging the pores, resulting in thick, bumpy skin that has a dry scaly texture. Sometimes the skin itches like crazy.

As we get older and new skin production slows down, the texture actually gets better because there is less dead skin backlog. How ironic that you will probably be in your forties or older to be able to bare your arms and legs with confidence when more revealing attire will no longer be appropriate for your age or heavier-set body.

There are people who have their body scrubbed with coarse grains or towels only to end up with scratched-up areas that have scabbed and even darkened from friction. Clawing them off is not the way to go! That only makes the damage worse.

Some 15 years ago, all dermatologists could do was prescribe steroids that could only be used for a few weeks since continued use might result in the skin getting too thin or suffering from side effects such as darkening and itching. When the steroid was stopped, the condition would just creep back in.

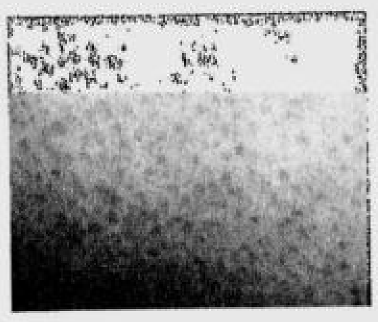
But there's now a product strong enough to yield quick results, but can be used daily for maintenance.

The Glytone Keratosis Pilaris Kit (P4,030) can only be obtained via the dermatologist's clinic. The progress must be monitored by the dermatologist because the solution is potent and there are those with sensitive skin that may react negatively to the treatment.

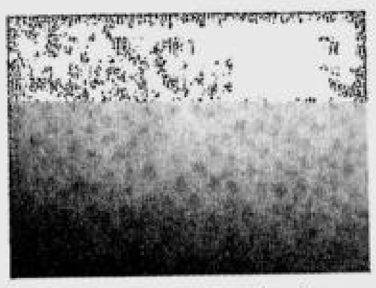
This two-step regimen starts with the Exfoliating Body Wash with 8.8-percent free glycolic acid, which cleanses and exfoliates rough skin. There is a medium-size bath lily puff included in the kit.

Step two entails applying the Body Lotion which contains 17.5-percent glycolic acid on areas with the unsightly bumps to help clear out the dead skin cells that have stubbornly taken over the territory acting as an obstacle for smooth skin. It smoothes away roughness and minimizes the skin bumps. It may not remove all the bumps, but it will eliminate most of them

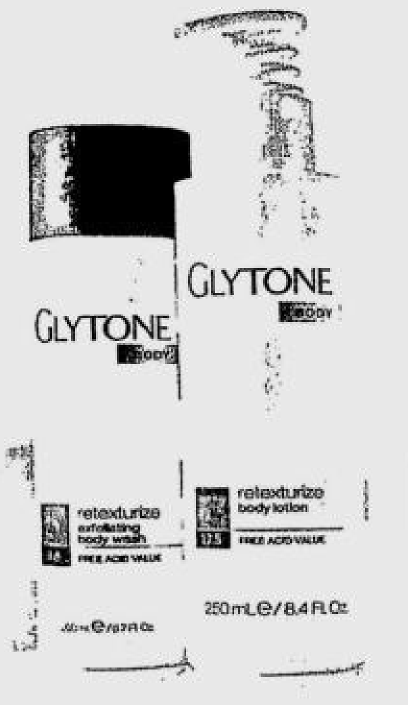
Most people find that once-a-day application is enough. It can be applied either morning or night, during a shower (body wash) or after (body lotion).



KERATOSIS pilaris on arms



KERATOSIS pillaris on back



GLYTONE Keratosis Pilaris Line with Retexturize Ultra heel and elbow cream

Other uses

It cleans out and prevents new blemishes on acne-prone areas of shoulders, chest and back. It also prevents ingrown hair from shaving or waxing on legs, bikini area and underarms.

Do not apply lotion straight after shaving, though; it will sting like crazy. Wait about three days later when hair starts to grow through and the skin is not so raw from being stripped by razor or wax. The lotion will dissolve the dead skin cells that will otherwise settle on skin's surface and choke the skin pores.

Other uses for me: Cleans out and prevents new blemishes on acne-prone areas of shoulders, chest and back. Also prevents ingrown hair from shaving or waxing on legs, bikini area and underarms.

For those who have experienced scarring, pain and itching from ingrown hairs you would know the big deal of this discovery.

Stretch the budget: On days when the weather is cooler and arms or thighs do not have to be exposed, use papaya or goat's milk soap (P30 to P60) as the exfoliant wash, then body lotion with AHA (alpha hydroxyl acid) and BHA (Beta Hydroxy Acid) to clear out dead skin. This cheap treatment will maintain and stretch the great results of the Glytone KP kit. But don't expect dramatic results as this treatment is too mild.

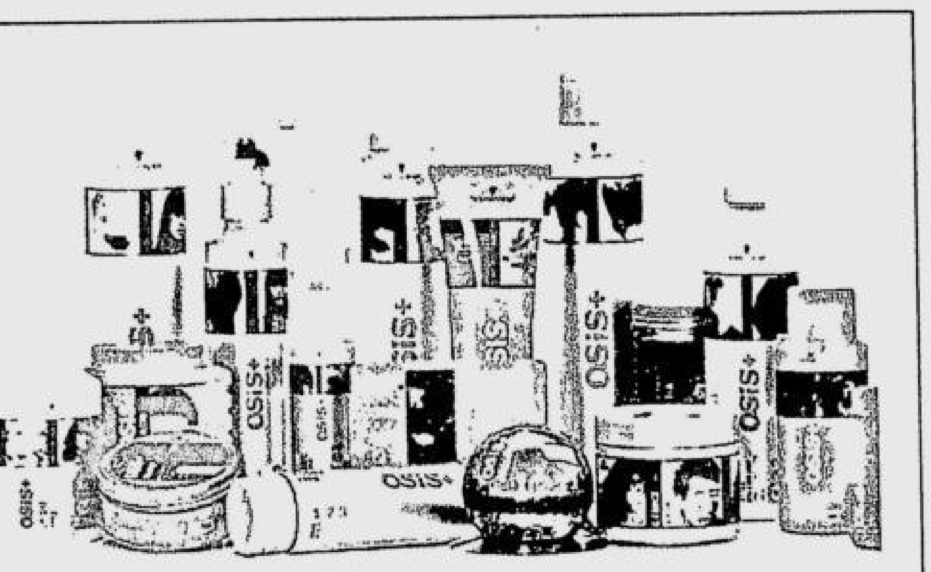
For papaya soap, I use Wellab and Silka Green. For goat's milk soap, I use Wellab or Fibermill (call 6329023). For lotion: Jergens Skin Smoothing with AHA and BHA or Godiva Fruit Acid cream (P224, 20 grams; P458, 65 grams).

Before summer, start using the Glytone KP kit.

Glycolic acid is a form of AHA; it is derived from sugarcane. It exfoliates dead skin cells. Goat's milk has lactic acid AHA. Papaya enzymes are also a natural exfoliant.

Call 81-KAKAI (52524) or visit www.glytone.com.ph

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com



SCHWARZKOPF Professional's Osis line

Style explosion

SCHWARZKOPF PROFESSIONAL INTRODUCES its new Osis line, consisting of the latest formulations, textures and fragrances under the Osis Essentials and Osis Creatives brands.

Osis Essentials is used daily to volumize, form, gloss, texture and fix the hair. For hair that moves but stays under control, Volume Shot and Grip styling mousses are perfect for everyday wear, whether you're out malling or having a leisurely Sunday lunch.

Osis' volume cream called Upload gives instant lightweight volume and gives hair a natural shine. Hairbody style and care spray provides light styling and control while Loopy curl cream that gives natural curl control is your perfect choice for a romantic, flirty date.

Look sweet and demure with the use of a flattening iron serum called Flatliner. Magic anti-frizz serum, meanwhile, gives instant glossy shine to limp hair, while G.Force strong styling gel and 4-Play moulding cream will do the styling trick if you've got some serious clubbing to do on Friday nights.

Finish the look with fast-drying hairsprays called Freeze, Session and Freeze Pump to keep your edgy style in place.

The Osis Creatives line, on the other hand, features products for unlimited styling. If you want natural movement, then give Buff styling cream a try, with for its feather-light style definition.

For that sleek and sexy look that will make you the star of any party, try Osis' Shape gloss wax for satin-like control and texture. Another top choice is a molding paste called Marsh Mellow, for the ultimate in texture and separation.

Get hold of Thrill fibre gum for a bendable and mouldable finish. Rough Up modeling clay gives a rough texture for a natural unstyled grunge look, while Mess Up provides choppy style distortion for that funky vibe. Wet Blend is a slicking gel for an easy-to-control ultra wet look that is non-sticky and non-greasy.

To tousle or tame your mane, Stick Up hard wax on a stick gives style separation and definition for a clean, simple look that is ideal for the workplace.

Schwarzkopf Professional is part of the business unit cosmetics/toiletries of the Henkel Group, Düsseldorf, and one of the leading suppliers in the hairdressing business worldwide. Schwarzkopf Professional's other well known international brands include Igora (color), Seah Hairspa and BC Bonacure (care), and Silhouette (styling) as well as Natural Styling and Strait Styling (form).

Call 7268507 to 08, 7231763 and 7228474.

Caring for your tresses

DON'T GET STRESSED OVER damaged tresses. Here are some tips from Pantene Total Care on how to repair damage done to hair and keep it protected:

- **Never brush soaking wet hair,** as the hair is quite elastic at this time and can be pulled and stretched to the breaking point. Backbrushing and backcombing is also a no-no, since they tug against the scales of the cuticle.
- **The right way to comb is to begin at the ends and work through gently,** then go back and comb through from scalp. As for what we use to comb our hair—a wide-toothed comb or a brush with rounded ends works best. Steer clear of plastic-bristle brushes or metal toothed combs.
- **Cut down your drying time.** Allow your hair to dry naturally whenever possible. But if you really must blow-dry, then one way to keep it to a minimum is to pat wet hair with a towel beforehand to absorb excess moisture.
- **Give your hair (if textured and relaxed, that is) a break.** Space processing treatments at least two weeks apart, and in coloring, opt for gentle color choices like semi-permanent or vegetable color.
- **Trim your troubles.** Split ends are signposts of hair damage. Healthy hair remains smooth with no fly-aways as the cuticle layer is still intact. But once the hair cuticle is stripped away by repeated damage, splitends appear. A quick fix is to try splitend repair fluids, which contain high-density silicones which draw together the splayed ends of your hair and hide their ragged appearance.

However, these are usually removed at your next shampooing. A more permanent treatment is to get regular trims, at least ½-inch every four to eight weeks, and take better care of those cuticles.

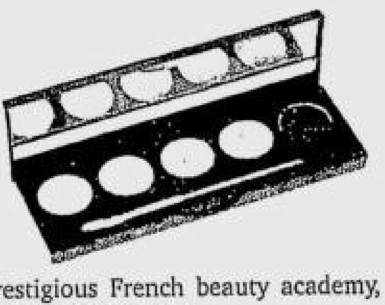
While some hair treatments and products can help hide the damage in your hair, conditioners are a true first aid fix for damaged hair, helping to reverse damage and bring hair back to a healthy state.

Daily conditioning with vitamin enriched conditioners like Pantene Total Care helps protect your hair by keeping the cuticles hydrated so it remains smooth and reflects light easily, leading to shiny, healthy hair.

Pantene Total Care has pro-Vitamin complex that penetrate hair and increase its moisture content. It also has dimethicone, a conditioning agent that binds and deposits onto the hair thus protecting the hair from damage by reducing hair friction and improving its resistance to brushing, combing and styling—lesser friction means lesser damage.

With Pantene Total Care, you can condition your way to healthier hair.

Beauty forever



MAKE UP FOR EVER PRODUCTS are known for their multi-purpose, thoroughly tested formulas and superior quality. These are easy-to-use products that are gentle to all skin types and races, and are designed to address the specific needs of its patrons, whether professional makeup artists or the general public alike.

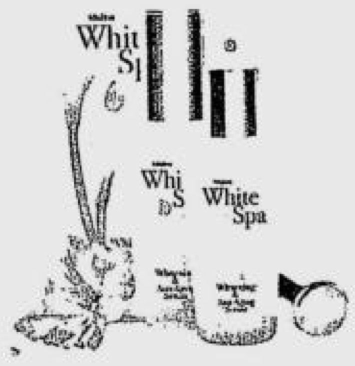
Make Up For Ever products are also known for their ability to address the clientele's need for color-correction, smudge-proof and waterproof make-up application, and cosmetics that deliver skincare benefits.

In 1999, Make Up For Ever became part of the luxury group, Louis Vuitton Moet Hennessy (LVMH). With LVMH, Make Up For Ever grew into a strong brand with a presence in 46 countries around the world.

Dany Sanz began her career in the arts as a sculptor and a painter. She later became a creative force in theater and fashion productions. Eventually, she became the principal of the prestigious French beauty academy, the Ecole Chauveau.

Motivated by the lack of available cosmetic products necessary to execute the highly creative looks required by both theater and the fashion industry, Dany Sanz began Make Up for Ever in 1984. She wanted to create a range of high-quality products, representing a palette so extensive and diverse, with all the textures and colors that would allow a professional makeup artist to achieve with ease any effect necessary for any production.

Make Up For Ever is available at 3/L, Shangri-La Plaza Mall (tel. 6385702); 3/F, The Block, SM City North Edsa (4420368); and Marionnaud, 2/F, SM Mall of Asia.



SKIN-WHITENING ESSENTIALS

Mistine White Spa Extra-Whitening Lotion and Mistine White Spa Extra-Whitening and Skin Perfecting Roll-on contain the revolutionary ingredient, Alpha Arbutin. Research shows it is 10 times more effective and safer in whitening skin.

MILLESIME IMPERIAL. Created 12 years ago to celebrate Creed's 140th year as supplier to the European royal courts, this one is loved by Harrison Ford, Pierce Brosnan and Catherine Zeta-Jones. "Millesime" is Creed's version of eau de parfum.

True to the Creed

From page E1

ucts are sold only in top stores (Isetan in Japan; Lane Crawford in Hong Kong; and Rustan's Makati here, where it's distributed by Prestige Brands Phils. Inc.).

While the brand was born in London, the company now calls Paris its home. "But it's 50-50," Creed said. "We respect the British way. It's dandy. But we also respect the French way, the French fashion."

Family of noses

The 26-year-old Erwin was born in Paris and raised both in France and Switzerland, and is being groomed by his father and Creed president, Olivier, to take over the firm.

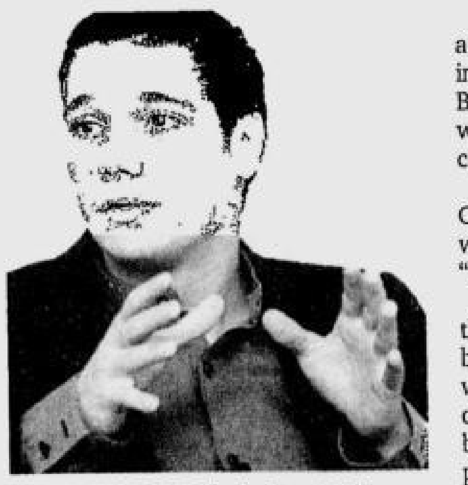
Olivier Creed is noted as one of the Top 5 "noses" in the world. He is a passionate perfumer who still creates scents the traditional way. He's also known for his custom creations, a painstaking process that can cost the client thousands of euros—that is if the master perfumer wants to work with the client.

"My father won't say yes only because you can afford to pay for it," Erwin said. "You have to have an appreciation for what it takes to create a fragrance."

It takes four months to two years to develop a fragrance, Erwin noted. "It's 40 percent art and 60 percent mathematics."

The young Creed said he travels around the world with his father to purchase the most select ingredients—no matter the cost. "You have to have the best natural essences," he explained. "It's like being a chef. He has to have the best ingredients to make a great meal."

Olivier Creed never forced his children to get involved in the family business, his son said. "I studied fashion… But I fell in love with our fragrances. My sister is a photographer."



YOUNGBLOOD. Erwin Creed, 26, casually clad in distressed Diesel denims, likens his family's legendary perfumerie to a French luxury leather-goods house: "Hermes uses only the finest leathers. At Creed we only use the finest ingredients, no matter the cost."

With his dad, the young man developed a popular scent called Love in White. "It's important that it has my father's touch. But we disagreed at some points, and that was also important. I don't just say yes because he says it's okay."

In the Philippines, only nine of Creed's top sellers are available, most of which are clean, light scents because "here it's a warmer country."

Erwin's advice to buyers is to allow the fragrance to develop on their skin before making a purchase. "We like it when a client comes to the counter, tries on a perfume, then says they'll come back. It means they appreciate how a perfume works. You may like how it smells immediately after application (top note), but you have to see if you still like it after maybe five minutes (middle note), or what remains of it later in the day (back or base note)."

Then he added in jest, "Of course we like it, too, if you buy right away."

ROBINSONS DEPARTMENT STORE

GRANTS TWO WOMEN'S MAKEOVER WISHES

Val before the makeover

Company B ruffled shirt and black slacks, Julia shoes and Secosana bag

Crissa 3/4 sleeved red blouse and black slacks, Julia shoes and Secosana bag

Sushki before the makeover

RRJ striped top and white bermuda shorts, Liberte wedges, and Cose bag

Red Girl reversible hoodie, shirt and denim mini skirt Liberte flats and Cose messenger bag.

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See poster mechanics for details

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0648 Series of 200

Robinsons Galleria
Flagship Store
Robinsons Malls
Waltermart Malls
Nepo Malls
Tutuban Center
Metropolis Star Alabang
Festival Mall Alabang
Limketkal Mall Cagayan De Oro

Robinsons Department Store

Robinsons Department Store (RDS) celebrates the beauty of being a woman with its *"Ladies Fair"* happening the whole month of March. As a salute to mothers, wives, aunts, daughters, girlfriends, bosses and co-workers, RDS challenges *Marie Claire's* fashion editor **Giselle Go** to give two typical RDS shoppers a style makeover and tips on how to look trendy and fashionable.

MAKEOVER MAMA. Valerie "Val" Cortez, a devoted wife and mom. Giselle updated Val's style with the red blouse and sleek black pants, paired with a black leather bag and pointed pumps, a perfect alternative to her usual corporate casual look.

Another ensemble—a ruffled puffed-sleeved polo, black slacks, a camel bag and pumps—boosted her business attire options. Less is best is Val's fashion mantra. "Balance is key," she says. "And RDS has a balanced mix of the basic classic pieces which practical persons like me will surely love," she adds.

GETTING SOME FUN FASHION LESSONS.

Verushka "Sushki" Ilingan, fresh college graduate. Giselle instantly knew that there was no need to drastically change Sushki's spontaneous sense of style so she decided to simply enhance it. The blue shirt, denim mini skirt and the reversible hip hoodie went perfectly with a pair of chic flats and denim messenger bag. A great attire which Sushki says she'll wear when chilling out with her friends.

Sushki looked cool in white bermuda shorts and a pink striped top. The matching striped wedges and the cool bag was a perfect accessory for more fun under the sun.

"I'm a frequent RDS shopper. I just love their tank tops, shorts and other accessories."

Style guru Giselle Go adds: "Whether you are a mother who goes for simple, basic pieces like Val, a young adult who enjoys your individual style like Sushki or someone like me who is adventurous when it comes to fashion RDS has a wide array of reasonably-priced pieces that will fit any woman, regardless of her age, body type, shape, preference and lifestyle." So bargain hunters and fashion forward femmes, splurge on the fashion staples as well as trendy choices. And get discounted prices off selected ladies' apparel, accessories, shoes and bags like articles from Bado, Bobson, Buntis, Candy, Club R, Company B, Crissa, Fab, Freego, French Toss, Harvard, Julia, Liberté, Paperdolls, Red Girl, RRJ, Pazzo and Wrangler-until March 31. Also take home a free t-shirt for a minimum single receipt purchase of P1,000.00 from these participating brands. While you have time, check out great finds from Francesca, Mommy Plus/Woman Plus, Biggie, Bong Garcia, Alicia, My Mom, Vergel De Dios, Great Expectations, Sam Lin, She and Ina. Ladies, this is your month so go and celebrate.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:
Styling: Giselle Go
Photography: Pat Dy
Make-up: Jigs Mayuga of L'oreal Paris
Hair: Felicity Son using Kiehl's

GOINGS ON

Art contest launched March 9

THIS YEAR'S PHILIP MORRIS-Philippine Art Awards (PAA) will be launched at an invitational event today at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Intercontinental in Makati City. During the unveiling, Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc. (PMPMI) will also inaugurate the www.philippineartawards.org contest web site and launch the limited edition coffee-table book "Philip Morris Philippine Art Awards: A decade of Inspired Creativity." The book was written by journalist/art critic Cid Reyes and produced by PMPMI. Contest entry forms, as well as background information on the 12-year-old competition, may be downloaded through the web site.

SEMINAR ON AUTISM. CARE Foundation, Inc. (Center for Alternative and Relevant Education) is conducting a series of seminar on Floortime, March 10, 8 a.m.-12 noon at the Lecture Hall, Ground Floor, La Salle Greenhills. Floortime is an integral part of DIR (Developmental, Individual-difference, Relationship-based) method, an intervention program for autistic spectrum disorder and other special needs. The seminar will show exclusive video programs for better appreciation of teachers and parents. Roy C. Iglesias, executive director of CARE Foundation, Inc. and a member of the Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders based in the United States, will conduct the seminar. CARE Foundation, Inc. (telefax 7009669) provides home- and center-based development intervention programs for children with special needs.

NEW OFFER. Sun Cellular is now offering Call and Text Unlimited Service at the lowest price ever of P25. The P25 day's worth of credits includes unlimited voice calls. Sun Cellular invests more than P11 billion annually to increase coverage and to make sure its subscribers are always connected by putting up cell sites all around the nation. Sun Shops are located in malls and other accessible places. Call 3958000. Visit http://www.suncellular.com.ph/

RACING IN THE MALL. City Kart Racing brings to Festival Supermall and Westgate Alabang its concept of European-standard go-karting. The second leg of Grand Prix will be held March 18 at Westgate Alabang. Other activities are being held at the Gardens of Festival Supermall in Filinvest Alabang until March 15 then Westgate Alabang March 16-31 (tel. 8503514, www.festivalsupermall.com and www.westgatefilinvest.com). A special racetrack designed by top F1 racer Jeff Freihuber is open to the public until March 31, 3-10 p.m.

SALE. Robinsons Malls will hold a chainwide three-day sale dubbed "Sun, Sand and Sale" March 16 (up to midnight), March 17 and 18 (regular mall hours). Avail of up to 50 percent discount on selected items from participating mall outlets.

SUMMER CLASSES. The Nihongo Center Foundation, Inc. is now accepting applications for Japanese language courses for the summer. Call its Manila and Makati campuses at 7353179 or 8924916 to 19 for details. Visit www.nihongocenter.com.

FREE CONCERT. The Easter Journey at the Ateneo High School Chapel on March 20 at 7 p.m. (following the 5:30 p.m. anticipated mass). To be performed are compositions created especially for the Lenten season as featured in the album, The Easter Journey, including the 2006 Awit Award winner for Best Inspirational song—Pieta (Oyayi sa Paanan ni Hesus). As an early Easter gift to Hangad listeners music scores of Pag-ibig Ko and Walang Ibang Hangad will be given away to the first 20 guests. Send email to mail@hangad.com.

1ST HILDEGARD AWARD
The Mass Communications Department of the St. Scholastica's College presented recently the first Hildegard Awards for Women in Media and Communication, named after a 12th century German writer/ Benedictine mystic. Gigi Santiago Lara and Rhea Santos receive the award for QTV/GMA; at right are award recipient Feny Bautista and Professor Aurora Lomibao, who represented Dr. Nora Quebral, another recipient.

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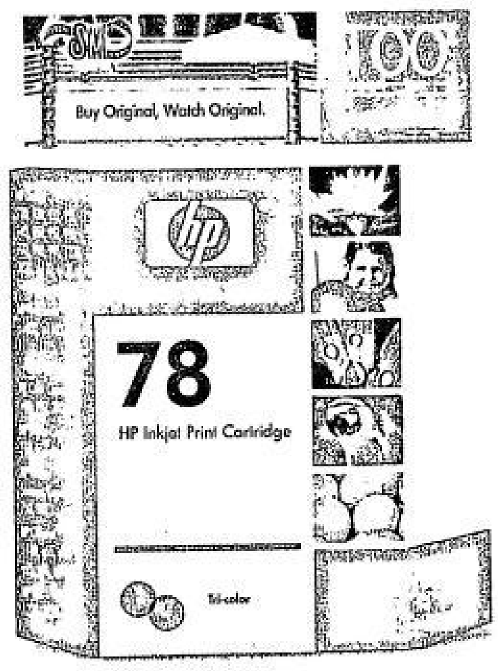

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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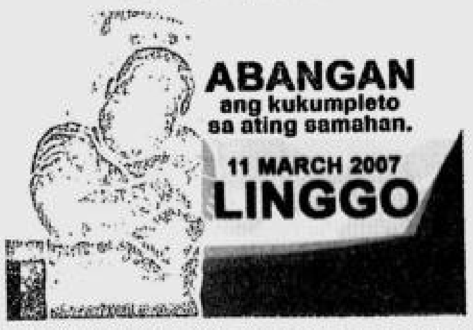

ABANGAN
ang kukumpleto
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11 MARCH 2007
LINGGO

GERARD Butler as "The Phantom of the Opera." Now he's Leonidas in "300."

From Phantom to half-clad Spartan king

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—**GERARD Butler** doffs his "Phantom of the Opera" mask, cloak and clothes and wears virtually nothing, save for a leather codpiece, in the film adaptation of Frank Miller's graphic novel, "300."

In a recent press con, Gerard, who vied against **Daniel Craig** for the James Bond role, spoke with a bit more bluster than usual. He was probably still psyched up from playing King Leonidas in "300," where he had to be like a lion in order to lead a small army of 300 Spartans combating more than 200,000 Persian troops in 480 B.C.

The actor dismissed reports that the director, **Zack Snyder**, toyed with the idea of King Leonidas and his 300 soldiers appearing naked throughout the film.

Engaging

Well, the finished product shows Gerard and his warriors semi-naked. But the biggest draw of "300" is that it is a surprisingly engaging film, thanks in large part to its impressive visual style reminiscent of "Sin City," another film adaptation of a **Frank Miller** novel. Add the fact that, while it sometimes borrows from the golden look of "Gladiator," it doesn't take itself seriously.

Gerard, sitting confidently like King Leonidas himself as he answered questions from reporters, also talked about the supposed "failure" of "The Phantom of the Opera." The Scotland native was sheepish, however, when asked about how he injured **Hilary Swank** while doing a striptease act in front of her during the filming of a scene in the upcoming "P.S. I Love You." Read on for his account about how his disrobing almost caused serious eye injury to the Oscar-winning actress. His suspender snapped and hit Hilary above the eye.

Can you talk about how you felt wearing a codpiece and almost nothing else in the film?

Thank Christ I had four months to prepare for this role. I started training before everybody else. I disagreed with Zack because he wanted a more sinewy body. He felt the Spartans wouldn't have eaten that much. I was a thinking, who the f--k cares. Who knows they didn't eat much? I understood exactly where Zack was coming from, but I also realized that I have a six foot beard and a helmet that was like as skyscraper. I wanted a body to match those. When I took off my top and I put on that leather codpiece, I did not want to doubt, not even once, about how I looked or how strong I felt, that I could be like a lion, like an animal.

The first time I tried my codpiece, I have to say I still didn't feel like I was there, bodywise. There was about a week to go before filming. I was walking through the studio in Montreal and there were all these big French-Canadian men—carpenters and electricians—sitting there, chewing their tuna fish

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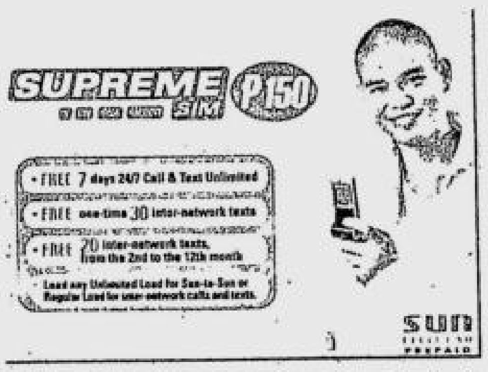

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1 300
2 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS
3 THE HITCHER
4 DEAD PEOPLE 2
5 THE GOOD SHEPHERD
6 SAAN NAGTATAGO SI HAPPINESS

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YOU GOT ME

CENTERSTAGE
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THE PODIUM

CINEMA 1
300

CINEMA 2
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1 GHOST RIDER
2 SAAN NAGTATAGO SI HAPPINESS
3 THE GOOD SHEPHERD
4 NUMBER 23
5 THE HITCHER
6 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
7 DEAD PEOPLE 2
8 YOU GOT ME
9 PRIMEVAL
10 THE PROMISE
11 300
12 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901

1 THE GOOD SHEPHERD
2 THE HITCHER
3 300
4 GHOST RIDER
5 PRIMEVAL
6 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS
7 EPIC MOVIE
8 MUSIC AND LYRICS
9 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
10 YOU GOT ME
11 DEAD PEOPLE 2
12 SAAN NAGTATAGO SI HAPPINESS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

1 THE GOOD SHEPHERD
2 EPIC MOVIE
3 THE PROMISE
4 GHOST RIDER
5 PRIMEVAL
6 THE HITCHER
300
8 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS
9 YOU GOT ME
10 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
11 FLUSHED AWAY
12 SAAN NAGTATAGO SI HAPPINESS

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1 300
2 GHOST RIDER
3 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS
4 THE GOOD SHEPHERD
5 YOU GOT ME
6 DEAD PEOPLE 2
7 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
8 SAAN NAGTATAGO SI HAPPINESS
9 THE HITCHER
10 PRIMEVAL

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1 THE GOOD SHEPHERD
2 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS
3 300
4 THE HITCHER
5 GHOST RIDER
6 YOU GOT ME

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1 THE GOOD SHEPHERD
2 THE HITCHER
3 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS
4 300
5 YOU GOT ME
6 SAAN NAGTATAGO SI HAPPINESS
7 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
8 GHOST RIDER
9 PRIMEVAL

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1 300
2 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS
3 YOU GOT ME
4 THE HITCHER

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

1 THE GOOD SHEPHERD
2 THE HITCHER
3 CATCH AND RELEASE
4 GHOST RIDER
5 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS
6 300
7 SAAN NAGTATAGO SI HAPPINESS
8 PRIMEVAL
9 YOU GOT ME
10 EPIC MOVIE
11 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
12 DEAD PEOPLE 2

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1 300
2 YOU GOT ME
3 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS
4 FLUSHED AWAY

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

1 300
2 FLUSHED AWAY
3 PRIMEVAL
4 YOU GOT ME

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

1 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS
2 300
3 YOU GOT ME
4 THE HITCHER

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1 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
2 GHOST RIDER
3 THE GOOD SHEPHERD
4 THE HITCHER
5 300
6 YOU GOT ME
7 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS
8 PRIMEVAL

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1 300
2 GHOST RIDER
3 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS
4 PRIMEVAL
5 YOU GOT ME
6 SAAN NAGTATAGO SI HAPPINESS

SM CITY MARILAO (044)0332013-17

1 EPIC MOVIE
2 FLUSHED AWAY
3 YOU GOT ME
4 PRIMEVAL

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1 THE FOUNTAIN
2 GHOST RIDER
3 YOU GOT ME
4 PRIMEVAl

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)8637681-85

1 GHOST RIDER
2 300
3 THE PROMISE
4 FLUSHED AWAY
5 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS
6 YOU GOT ME

SM CIY LIPA (043) 756-7925

1 GHOST RIDER
2 PRIMEVAL
3 YOU GOT ME
4 NUMBER 23

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1 YOU GOT ME
2 MUSIC AND LYRICS
BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
4 GHOST RIDER

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1 YOU GOT ME
2 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
3 THE FOUNTAIN
4 300

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THE HITCHER
2 300
3 PRIMEVAL
4 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811

1 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
2 YOU GOT ME
3 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS
4 300

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1 300
2 SAAN NAGTATAGO SI HAPPINESS
3 PRIMEVAL
4 YOU GOT ME
5 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
6 GHOST RIDER

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884

1 300
2 FLUSHED AWAY
3 YOU GOT ME
4 GRIFFIN AND PHOENIX

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1 MUSIC AND LYRICS
2 RESERVED
3 PRIMEVAL
4 YOU GOT ME
5 GHOST RIDER
6 300
7 RESERVED
8 FLUSHED AWAY

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1 GHOST RIDER
2 300
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GALLERIA

1 A GOOD SHEPHERD • THX 12:00 3:20 6:40 10:00	6 PRIMEVAL 12:40 3:00 GHOST RIDER 5:20 7:40 10:00
2 300 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	7 IT's A BOY GIRL THING 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
3 THE HITCHER 1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50	8 indieSine: ROME and JULIET 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
4 DEAD PEOPLE 2 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	9 BRIDGE of TERABITHIA 12:40 2:50 THE NUMBER 23 5:20 7:40 10:00
5 The PURSUIT of HAPPYNESS 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	10 YOU GOT ME 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

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1 300	12:35 3:00 5:25 7:45 10:00
2 IT's A BOY GIRL THING 12:05 2:00 3:55 PRIMEVAL 6:00 8:00 10:00	5 THE HITCHER 12:35 2.50 5:05 7:30 10:00
3 A GOOD SHEPHERD 11:30 3:00 6:30 10.00	6 DEAD PEOPLE 2 12:20 2.20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
4 YOU GOT ME 12:30 2:50 5.10 7:30 10.00	7 The PURSUIT of HAPPYNESS 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

METRO EAST

1 THE NUMBER 23 12:50 2:50 BRIDGE of TERABITHIA 4:50 6:50 9:00	5 PRIMEVAL 12.30 2:40 GHOST RIDER 4:50 7:00 9:00
2 300 12:55 3:40 6:25 9:10	6 A GOOD SHEPHERD 11:00 2:10 5:30 9:00
3 YOU GOT ME 11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05	7 The PURSUIT of HAPPYNESS 1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00
4 THE HITCHER 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00	8 DEAD PEOPLE 2 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

NOVALICHES

1 300	3 The PURSUIT of HAPPYNESS
2 YOU GOT ME	4 THE HITCHER

PIONEER

1 A GOOD SHEPHERD 1:40 5:00 8:20	3 The PURSUIT of HAPPYNESS 1:15 3:45 6:15 8:40
2 300 1:15 3:45 6:15 8:40	4 THE HITCHER 12:25 2:30 4:35 6:40 8:40

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1 300	1 GHOST RIDER
2 The PURSUIT of HAPPYNESS	2 YOU GOT ME
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	6 PRIMEVAL

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Passion has decamped the matrimonial bed of a Filipino mining engineer and his exotic young wife, who left Fandabad, India to live with him in Manila. The 'seven-year itch' strikes when he is tapped to supervise a gold mining opeartion up north in Benguet, leaving her alone to care for their 6 years old son. She soon folloes her husband to Baguio City and brings her son with her. In the subterranean setting of the mining site, the engineer has found a homoerotic world of sweaty, swarthy half-naked men. He has shared his lodgings with a young virile miner of ethnic Ibaloi ancestry, putting his repressed homosexuality to a serious test. But the unexpected arrival of his wife confounds the situation. Instantly, passion ignites between her and the miner. Curiously, the engineer seems to approve.

MTRCB Rating: R18

ON THE set of "300" with di
his characters go naked in th

From Ph

From page F1

sandwiches. Suddenly, they see this guy walking along in a codpiece and you could see them going like, "Okay, it's going to be this type of movie (laughter)." There was a certain amount of vanity but that disappears in a couple of hours. The next minute, you feel strange wearing clothes. You're like, "Oh, look, I'm in jeans. What's this (laughter)?"

Zack told us that for a split second, he thought about having everybody naked. Would you have done the movie if he proceeded with that idea?

I don't think Zack was serious when he thought that. We all have insane thoughts but ultimately we are not serious. I don't think we could have made this film walking around naked. And I wouldn't have done it. That would have been a ridiculous idea (laughing).

How did you get your body in shape for the role?

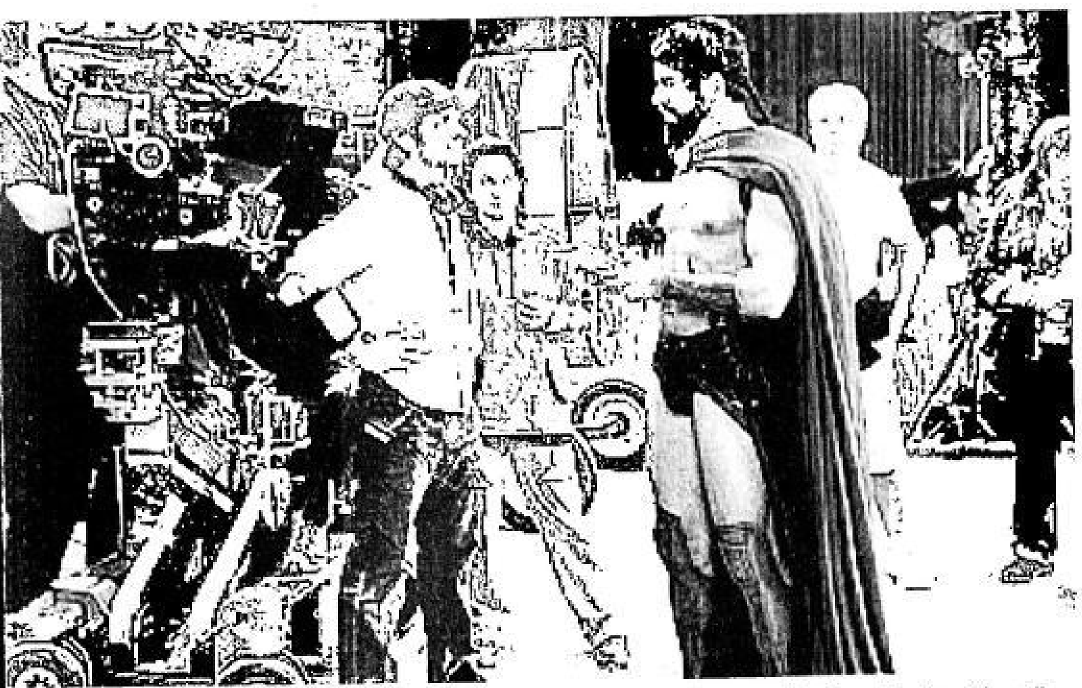
I am very proud of my body because I know how hard I worked for it. I trained six hours a day. I got an extra trainer even though there was already a film trainer who was "killing" everybody. I also wanted to sculpt and add muscle to my body. I would go and train with my guy and then go and do some gruesome sword and spear training with my stunt guys.

I would also pump before the shots. Pumping in between shots really helped. It made me feel so big and strong. Honestly, in the middle of the film, I was thinking they could send an army of a million and I would slaughter them all myself. That's insane but I guess he (King Leonidas) was insane. And that's a way to function so I didn't feel like an idiot when I was speaking to my men, that they could see the lion in me.

Some folks are finding contemporary parallels in the war between the Spartans and Persians. What is your take on the film's message?

The message in a film like this is the way you want to take it. What is interesting is, I have heard people describe the Spartans as Americans and Persians as Iraqis. I've also heard it the opposite way around. It's really for everybody to find meaning in the film. That's what the fun is about. They say it was drawing a line in the sand for democracy. Okay, which round? That's what I find fascinating. I am not going to speak about that for fear of being blacklisted.

But I think that in films like this one, the big message I took was the purity of belief that is necessary in one's life. How long are you going to really stick to what you feel is your honorable path? Or do you veer off with temptation and other things that perhaps are enticing but are not the truth? This film is about the extremes of sacrifice, hono



rector Zack Snyder (center) giving his lead star instructions. Snyder actually thought of making all
e movie.

ntom to half-clad Spartan king

loyalty, faith, belief and that these are all exceptional values for people to try and adhere to but they have been watered down over the course of history.

For you, though, what would be the ideal reaction of the viewing public?

It's funny because somebody mentioned vanity early on—that you end up trying to sound intelligent about this film. In fact, this film is just pure testosterone. It's kick-ass. It's fun. There are a lot of times it doesn't take itself seriously that I really hope people get the humor. The test screening that I went to was like a rock concert. I saw people jumping out of their seats, applauding, laughing.

Can you tell us about your filming accident with Hilary?

This was for a romantic comedy that I am so excited about. Hilary is a dream and especially because I almost killed her. She can get through that boxing movie but she can't get past my suspenders (laughter). It's important for me to say this because that was probably the lowest point in my acting career—to see her fall back and put her hand on her head. She was still laughing because the thing was so funny. Then I saw a trickle of blood and I wanted to die. I said, "Oh my God, I am so sorry." In the middle of this pain she said, "This is not your fault." She didn't bitch. She didn't whine to anybody. All these people crowded around. That woman was so cool.

What do you think went wrong with "The Phantom of the Opera"?

Honestly, I think if you were to bring down Martians and show them a bunch of movies and then show them "The Phantom of the Opera," I think they'd go, "That's a pretty fantastic movie. I thought it was Joel's (director Schumacher) ultimate masterpiece." Unfortunately, there are other things that play against a film's performance such as suspicion and negativity. I felt that Joel got a pretty negative vibe, that **Andrew Lloyd Webber** got a pretty unfairly negative vibe. The music in that film is just so beautiful, eternal and gorgeous. I don't know but maybe people felt it jumped on a bandwagon. But again, to me the film stood alone as something. I am not the public but I really had expected it to do better but it still did okay and internationally it did well. It was a great experience for me. There were a lot of people going, "Where the hell is Michael Crawford?"

There were huge expectations since "The Phantom of the Opera" is one of the most successful musicals of all time. How did you cope with the film not doing as well as it was expected to do?

It saddened me that the film didn't do better but I have come to realize that

> 'When I put on that leather codpiece, I did not want to doubt how strong I felt

everything in my life is for a reason. A great saying for me is to keep an open mind to everything but get attached to nothing. Yeah, it could have done better. There's a reason it didn't. I don't know. I moved on. I am still very proud of what happened in "The Phantom of the Opera." I still see that it's Joel Schumacher's finest work and that it sits in a lot of people's DVD libraries. I know a lot of people who still get a lot of enjoyment out of it. Some you win, some you lose.

Now that you got your body in such excellent shape, do you still watch what you drink and eat?

I am drinking far too

FROM/ F4

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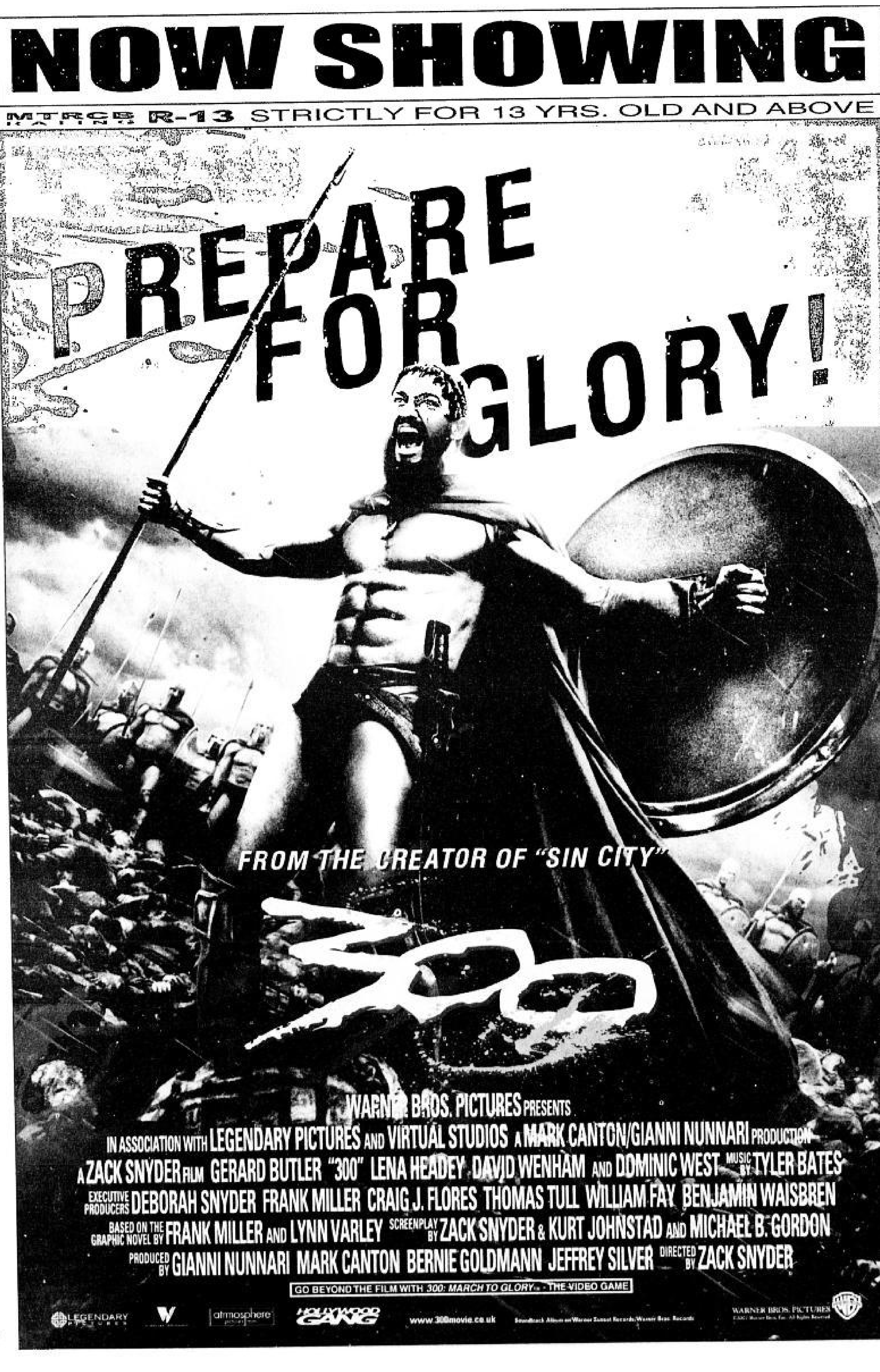

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SCENE from "Faces of Love." From left, Chinggoy Alonso, Christopher de Leon, Alfred Vargas, Sonny Cases and Farley Aguila.

Wry, illuminating tale about the vagaries of love

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE LOCAL FILM EVENT LAST MONTH WAS the screening of **Eddie Romero**'s latest film, "Faces of Love." Not only is Romero our only living National Artist for Film and Broadcast Arts, he's also in his 80s, and we think it's inspiring to see a film artist continue to be creatively productive in his senior years.

Best of all, we're excited to discover that Romero has chosen to work with young film artists—co-writer **Rica Arevalo**, cinematographer **Jun Aves**, editor **Ron Dale**, assistant director **Paolo Villaluna**, etc.

This is noteworthy, because it shows how well cinematic creativity fuses the generations together, and effects an artistic cross-pollination that's beneficial to both younger and senior artists alike.

This is clearly evident in "Faces of Love," because the movie is both wise and dynamic. It's a good film for lovers to watch, because it's Romero's cinematic treaties on the various aspects and vagaries of love.

The film has an inveigling start: **Christopher de Leon**'s character has been receiving letters from a mysterious person and he hires a lawyer (**Alfred Vargas**) to determine the letter writer's identity.

Vargas' character zeroes in on a woman (**Angel Aquino**) who used to be involved with De Leon. He is accompanied by De Leon's niece (**Juliana Palermo**), who is betrothed to a man (**Rodel Velayo**) she doesn't love.

Vargas meets Aquino at a most inopportune time, right after the death of her husband. Vargas also runs afoul of a cop (**Bembol Roco**), who dissuades him from pursuing his investigation—to no avail.

As Vargas digs deeper into Aquino's complicated story, he comes face to face with love in its many guises, some of them in conflict with each other.

Thus does Romero develop his theme that love is what the lover makes it: It is different things to different people, and thus shouldn't be "defined" and pinned down.

For instance, even the story's villain, the cop played by Roco, acts out of an impulse of "love," but it turns out to be dark, cruel, even perverse.

On the feistier side, the characters played by Vargas and Palermo initially get on each other's nerves, but expectedly get romantically involved as the film concludes its wryly illuminating tale.

And De Leon and Aquino also come to terms with feelings they've pushed aside for years, but must now acknowledge in maturity.

What about the mysterious letter writer's identity? That, too, is revealed before the film's final fade, and the revelation is instructive. It shows yet another face of love that adds to viewer's now prismatic of the complex feeling that does make the world go around—and sometimes sends it spinning way out of its axis.

'Dreamgirls'

THE FILM adaptation of the musical-theater hit "Dreamgirls" will be shown in Metro Manila starting March 14. The star-studded cast includes **Beyonce Knowles**, Oscar awardee **Jennifer Hudson**, **Anika Noni Rose**, **Jamie Foxx**, **Eddie Murphy** and **Danny Glover**.

Set in the turbulent '60s and '70s, the film follows the rise of a female trio discovered by an ambitious manager and offered the opportunity of a lifetime—sadly, with dire consequences to their personal relationships.

Feedback

FROM **PAUL R. Mortel** of Marikina City: "Now that the Lenten season is upon us, I would like to request any TV channel to screen the movie "Marcelino Pan y Vino" to strengthen our faith in God.

Also: "Who's minding the store as far as the number of commercials on TV is concerned? Is it a case of '*kanya-kanya na lang*?' *Sobrang dami na ng* TV commercials *ngayon. Maawa naman sila sa mga* televiewers!"

SM supports digital films

SM DIGITAL theaters is showcasing the latest batch of Cinemalaya Films starting with the festival's box-office hit "Saan Nagtatago ang Happiness?" This is SM management's way of showing its all-out support of the new digital film wave, and helping the public develop a deeper appreciation for "out of the box" movies.

Engineer **Ric Camaligan**, VP for Operations of SM Leisure groups, shares, "SM knows the power and influence of movies, that's why I've been instructed to really take care of the cinema division."

Camaligan, who's also president of the National Cinema Association of the Philippines, says that SM's digital venues are part of a long process of educating viewers. "As of now," he observes, "it's still mainstream movies that sell, but we hope that, by showing alternative films, they can develop a larger following. We're taking that risk to support new talents."

From Phantom . . .

From page F2

many cans of Coca Cola a day. I think that I'm about to come into some sense of balance because I spend too much time in the extremes training or going the other way and kind of blowing out on that. But then there's a natural part of me that always watches what I eat. Nowadays, I don't eat a lot of burgers or French fries. If I'm going to eat something, I'll eat a nice bit of fish or a bit of chicken and a salad so I guess at the end of the day, I am more aware of my diet through these films.

What do you do when you are not working?

I sleep a lot. The strange thing in becoming successful in this career is that it has led me in strange ways to enjoy more of the simplicities of life. I have been getting into meditation and stuff like that and appreciating the richness of just seeing friends, going to the movies, doing a bit of traveling, going for a hike. The strange thing is, I abandoned a lot of my extra hobbies and sports as I climbed and scraped my way up. But I feel that I am in a position now that I can relax and let things come to me a little bit. I've made a big focus of my life now making space for leisure, recreation and relaxation because I've worked really hard. I'm proud of how hard I've worked but I also realize it's taken its toll in some ways. Now I am much more confident that whatever is going to happen is going to happen for the right reason and therefore it's time to just relax a little bit and enjoy myself.

Do you have somebody in your life that's important?

I have somebody in my life that's important but the dimension of the relationship just changed a little bit. And yes, I'd love to get married someday. Perhaps too much of my focus and psychic energy has been on the whole acting thing and not enough has been paid to other areas of my life. Now I realize that I have to pay more attention to those areas and that's what I am trying to do right now. But I include women as leisure time. No, I am joking (laughter). But yeah, I would love to get married one day and hopefully, if I quit smoking then I could have more of a true belief that I will see my grandchildren running around.

What else do you like to do in your spare time?

Probably pretty much like my scene with the queen in "300." I am a really snuggly guy. I prefer nothing more than snuggling up with my woman, hugging and keeping warm. It's the best thing in the world to me. I feel like I am back in the womb when nothing can happen to you there. I'll be spending more days probably doing another press conference like this in Berlin. So maybe I'll be snuggling the table in front of me (laughter), snuggling my cup of coffee, yeah.

James McAvoy, another Scottish actor, told us that he couldn't live in Los Angeles because maybe he would get less intelligent with all the sun here.

I don't know if rain and cloud make you more intelligent but if it does then I'm a f--king genius (laughter), having grown up in Scotland. But I shouldn't say that because I actually think I come from the most beautiful country ever. I am amazed that when I go back there every time, I get filled up. It affects me not just in a superficially stimulating way but in a deep, deep way. I need that because LA doesn't fill me up like that. It fills you up in a different way. It fills you up egotistically but perhaps not so much spiritually.

Do you give in to temptation?

Oh, yeah.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

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SHAINA MAGDAYAO

TAIL TALES

RAIN WAS A SURPRISE FROM Rayver Cruz (her partner in "Happy Hearts," "Love Spell" and "Star Magic Presents Abt Ur Luv," shown with her in photo). Rain is a combination of our first names. We treat him like a baby. He has his own cute bed and he wears disposable diapers. He loves Eukanuba for Puppies. At first, I wanted a Teacup Yorkshire Terrier, but this breed is too delicate—artificially dwarfed, like a bonsai—and needs special attention. Rain is a Chihuahua, also small, but we can bring him anywhere. He loves to cuddle. He stays with me, but Rayver gets to see him often, too, because we're always together.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

INSIDE

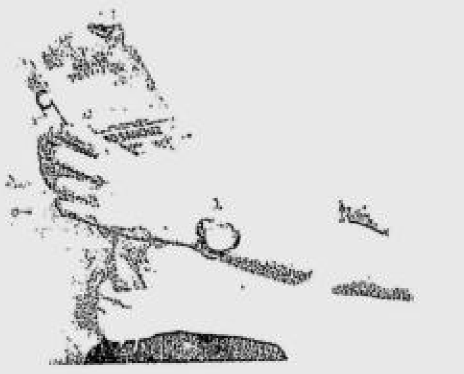
Beaded mask, one of Ali's favorite things /G2

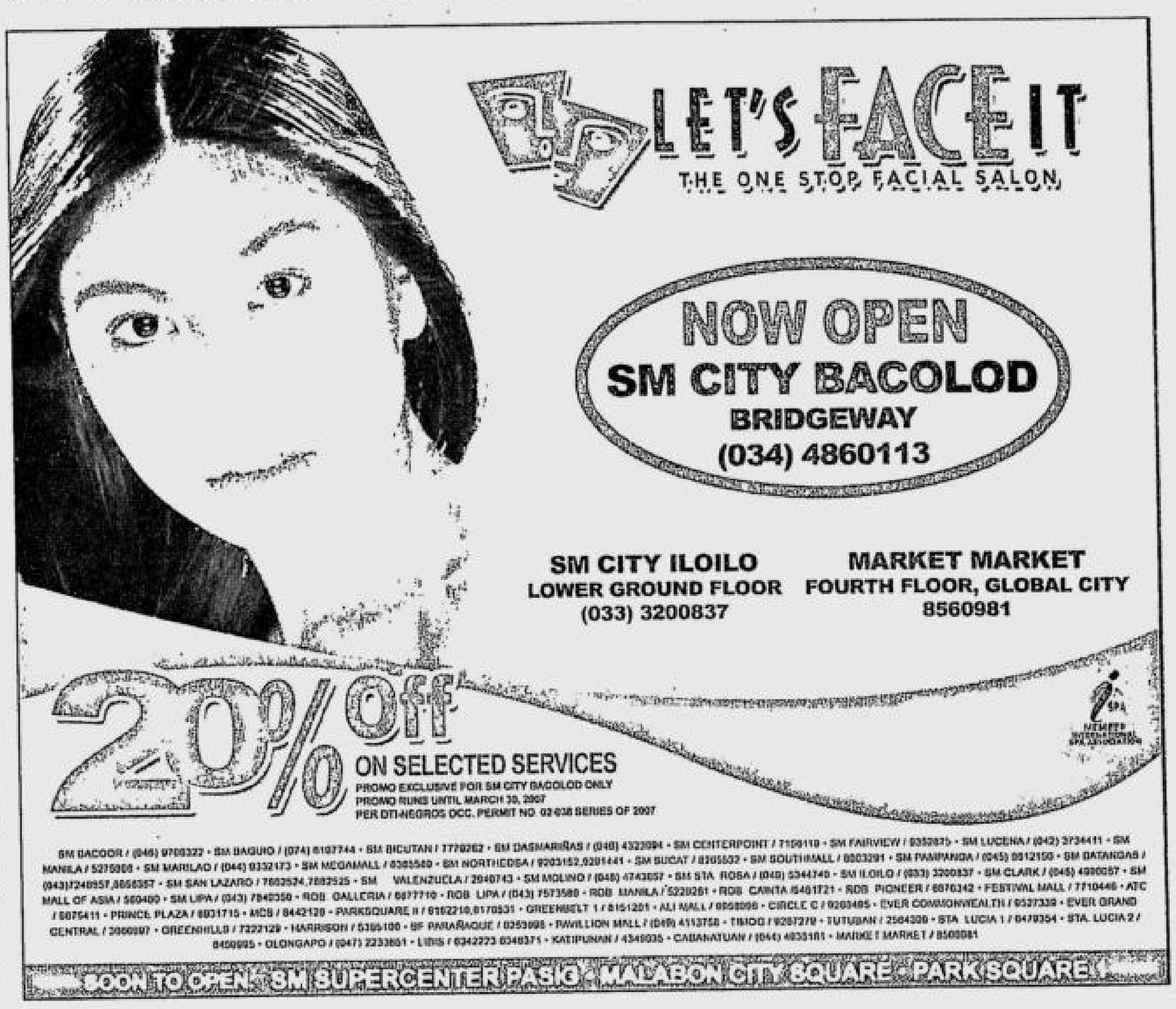
REYMOND SAJOR

BOOKS

MY FRIEND LOVELY, WHO'S NOW BASED IN the United Sates, introduced me to the book "Simplify and Live the Good Life" by Bo Sanchez. It gives some practical tips on how to lead well-balanced professional and personal lives. It inspires me to never give up pursuing my dreams, like when I was competing on "Philippine Idol." The book also reminds me that work is not just about money; it's about making other people happy as well. I recommend it to people with financial and career issues. It will help them exude a more positive outlook in the workplace. Other books in my shelf are "Being Happy!" by Andrew Matthews and the "Chicken Soup for the Soul" series.

Bayani San Diego Jr.





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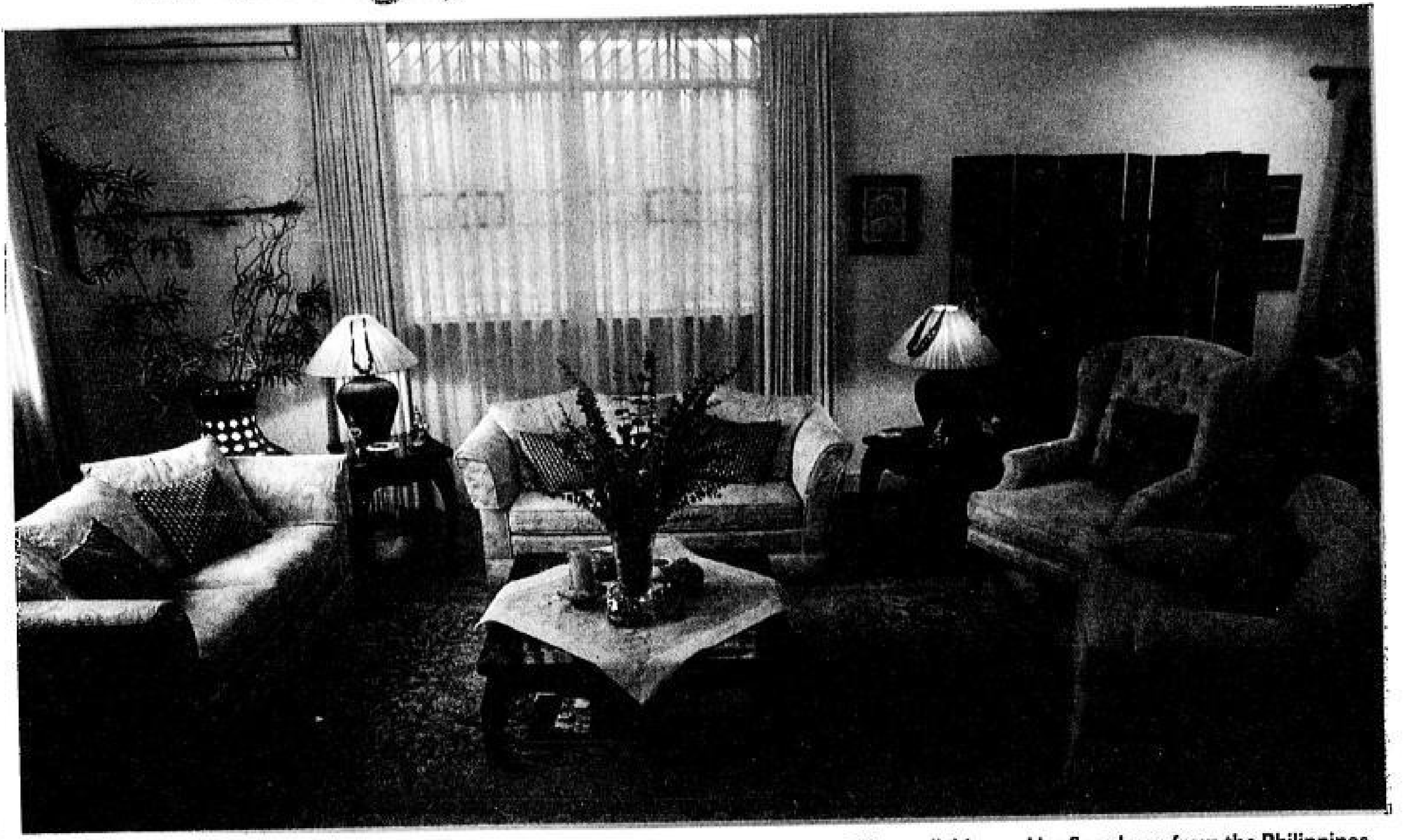
ALABANG TOWN CENTER

Pictures City
MOBILE 1

BAMBOO table by Budji Layug; pieces of Aztec wall art etched on tree barks hang on the walls.



LIVING room, designed by Omar—Moroccan lamps, European sofas, Persian carpet, Chinese divider and jar floor lamp from the Philippines.

Aroun[illegible]orld at home

HOME BODY

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

The Bsaies' Makati residence captures an international flavor—much like their culinary preferences

WHAT'S COOKING IN THE Bsaies residence?

If you ask dzBB radio star Ali Sotto, it's *kaldereta*, *sinigang*, *adobo* and other Filipino dishes.

If you ask her husband, Tunisian-born diplomat Omar Bsaies, it's couscous, hummus, tabouli and babaganush.

In the kitchen, the cross-cultural couple meets half-way.

"We cook together," he says.

She adds: "That's one of the advantages of a mixed marriage. We get the best of both worlds. Cuisine is just one aspect."

"The things we hate about each other's cultures, we ignore. But what we love about each other, we keep and nurture," Omar professes.

Extremes

"Our extreme personalities complement," Ali clarifies. "He is obsessive-compulsive. Even the spices in the kitchen are in alphabetical order. I'm the opposite."

Ali and Omar, who've been married for a decade, have rubbed off on each other. Somehow.

"While he has learned to relax a little, I now exert a little effort to be more organized," she explains.

Overhearing this, Omar can't help joking: "She's not succeeding!"

"Neither are you," Ali retorts with a hearty laugh.

It seems not-so-gentle ribbing clicks with them as well.

"I am into interior design; Ali isn't. In fact, this entire house is my doing," Omar claims.

He says he picked up most of the furniture pieces and décor from all over the world, in the different cities he's been posted to as a foreign service officer of the US State Department.

Some pieces—like the molave office tables, antique garden tables and a living room table with sectional chairs—were designed by Omar himself.

"My only contributions are the Chinese lucky pig and cat figurines," Ali admits with self-deprecating humor.

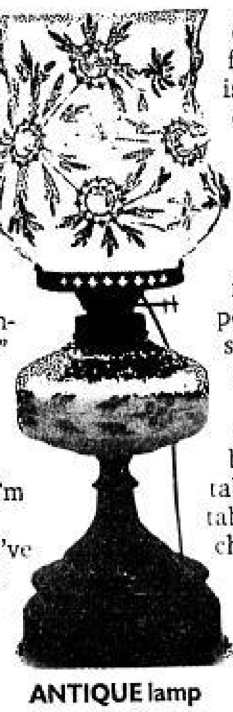
Her husband has impeccable taste, Ali proudly proclaims.

"A recurring motif is the calla

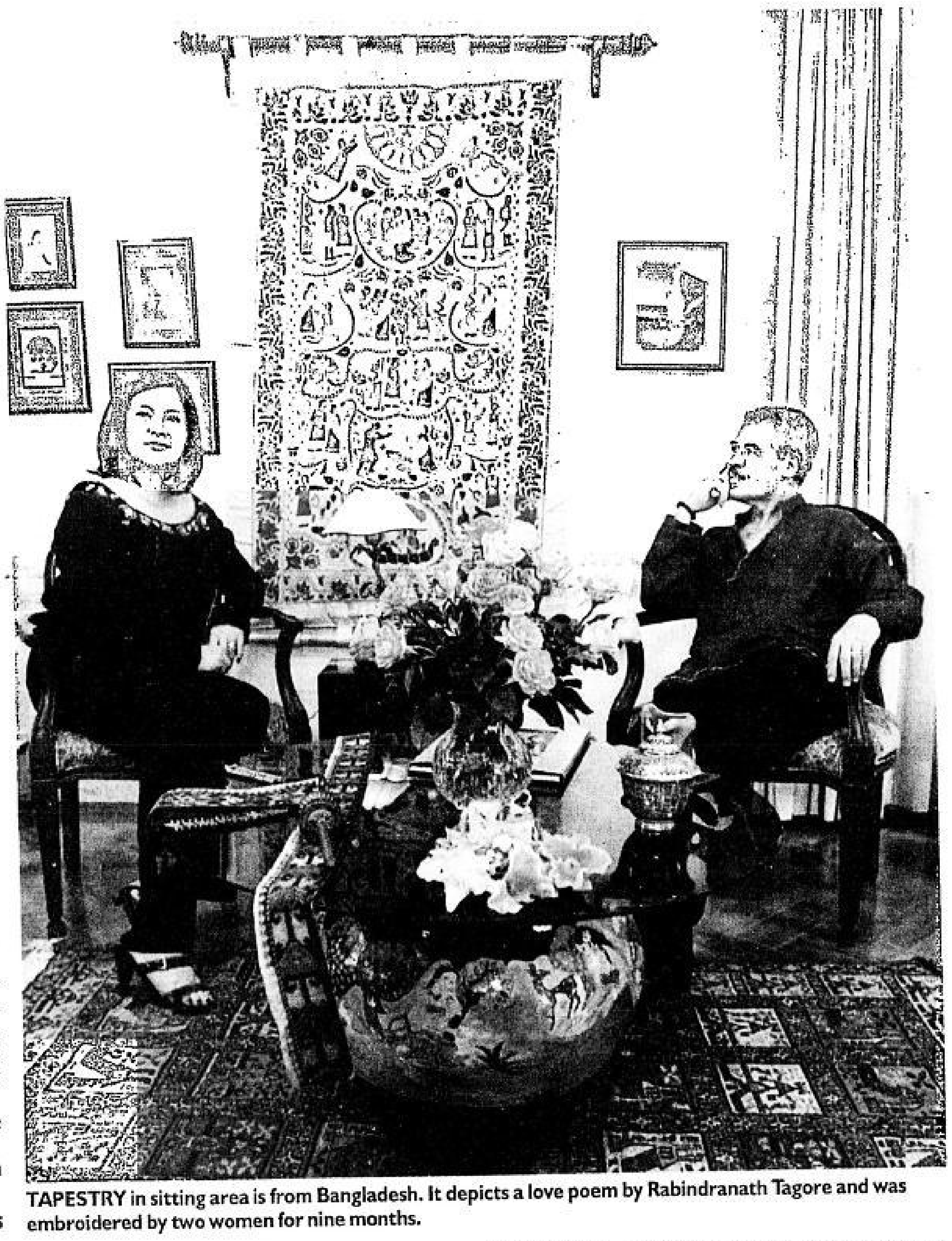
AROUND/ G5

SAWADEE statue from Thailand welcomes guests.

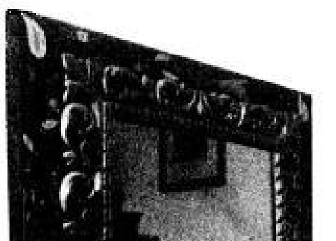
CHINA cabinet from China



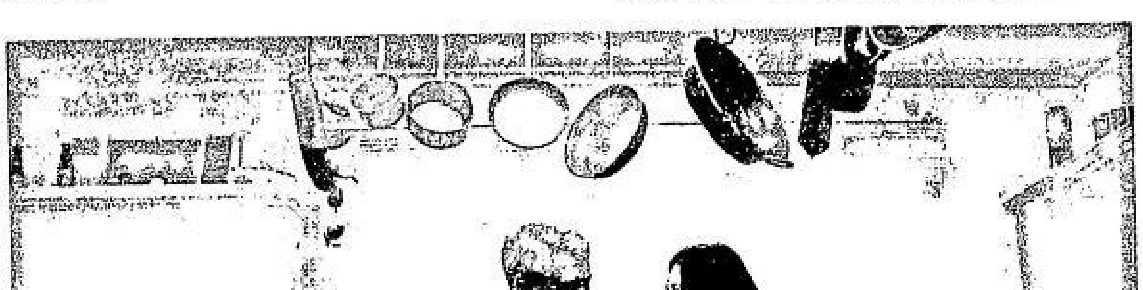
ANTIQUE lamp is from India.



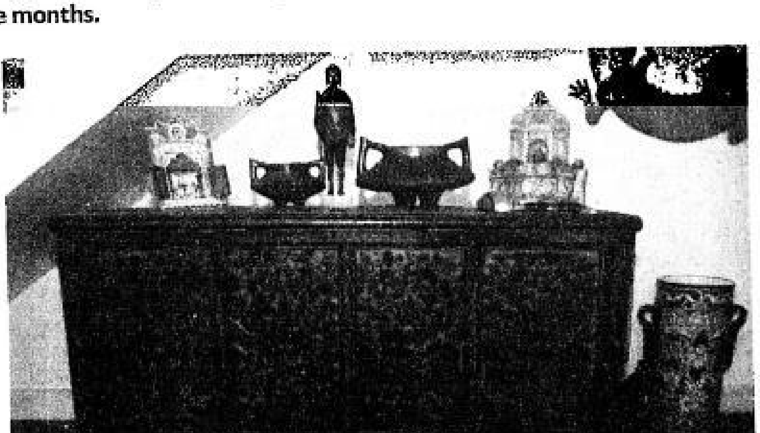
TAPESTRY in sitting area is from Bangladesh. It depicts a love poem by Rabindranath Tagore and was embroidered by two women for nine months.



COLORFUL mirror from Mexico is by Gabriela Almeida, circa 2004.

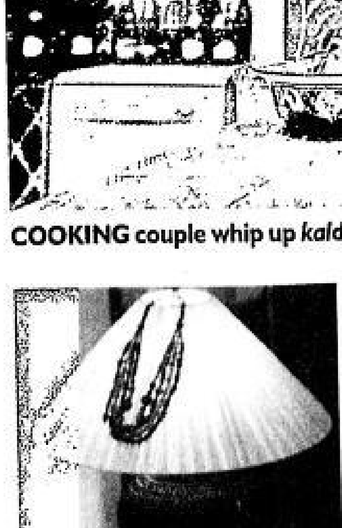


COOKING couple whip up *kaldereta* and couscous. Take note of the Calphalon pots and pans.

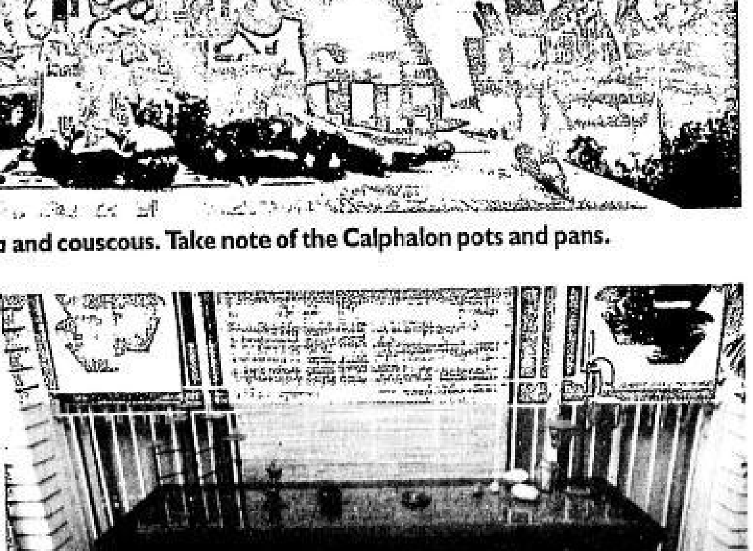


TIBETAN cabinet is painted with tangka scenes. Gecko mirror, upper right corner, is from Mexico, where the gecko is "a sign of luck."

FOYER boasts an engraved table from Bali by Omar.



MOROCCAN lamp and Thai dancer figurine



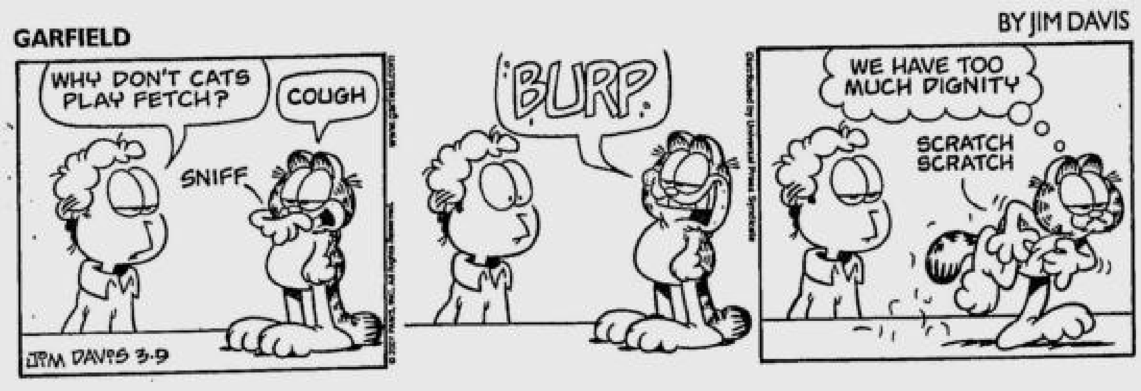
OMAR turned an antique door panel into a garden table.

CHEERFUL sun décor, from Mexico, hangs on the façade.

EMPEROR chair is from China; the *gamelan* player puppet, from Indonesia.

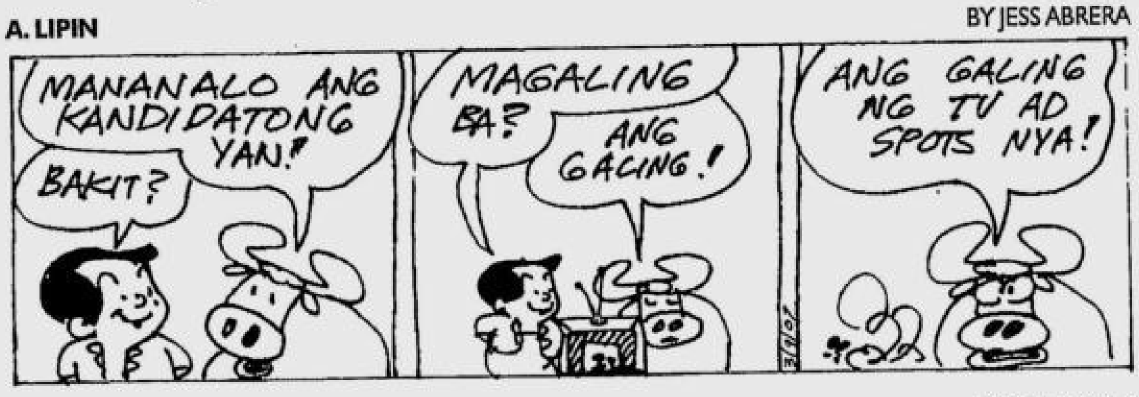
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


WHY DON'T CATS PLAY FETCH?
COUGH
SNIFF
BURP
WE HAVE TOO MUCH DIGNITY
SCRATCH SCRATCH
JIM DAVIS 3-9

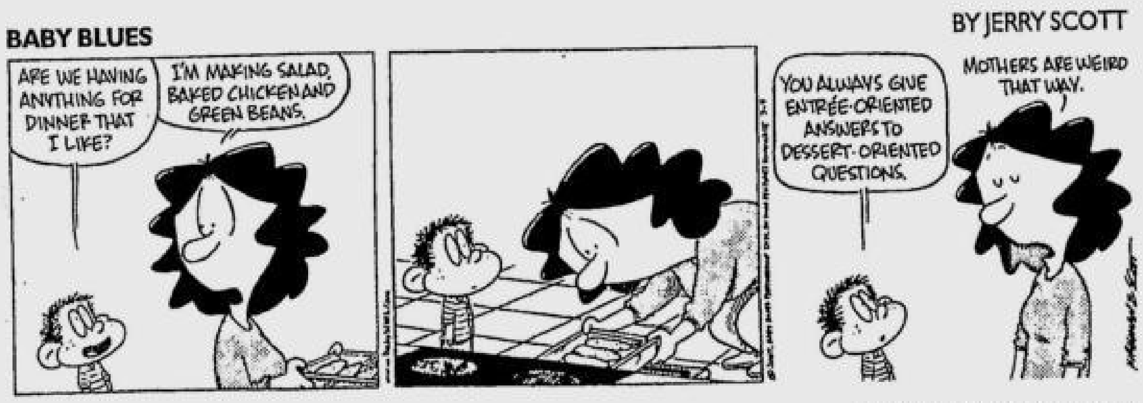
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MANANALO ANG KANDIDATONG YAN!
BAKIT?
MAGALING BA?
ANG GALING!
ANG GALING NG TV AD SPOTS NYA!

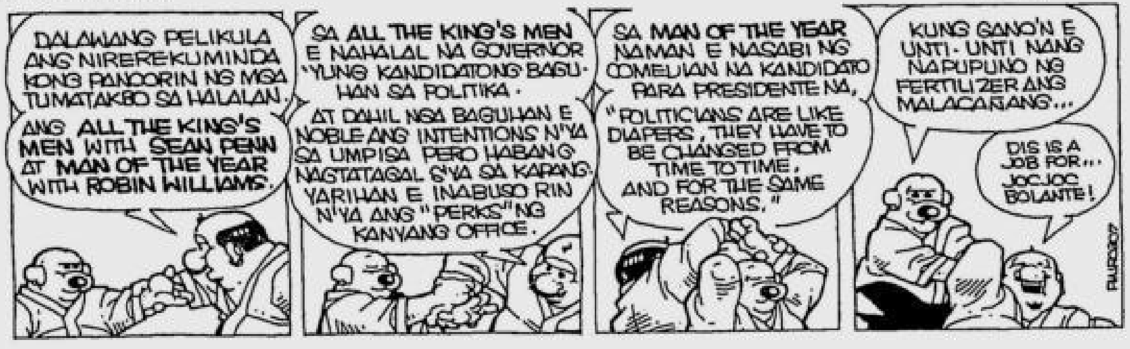
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ARE WE HAVING ANYTHING FOR DINNER THAT I LIKE?
I'M MAKING SALAD, BAKED CHICKEN AND GREEN BEANS.
YOU ALWAYS GIVE ENTRÉE-ORIENTED ANSWERS TO DESSERT-ORIENTED QUESTIONS.
MOTHERS ARE WEIRD THAT WAY.

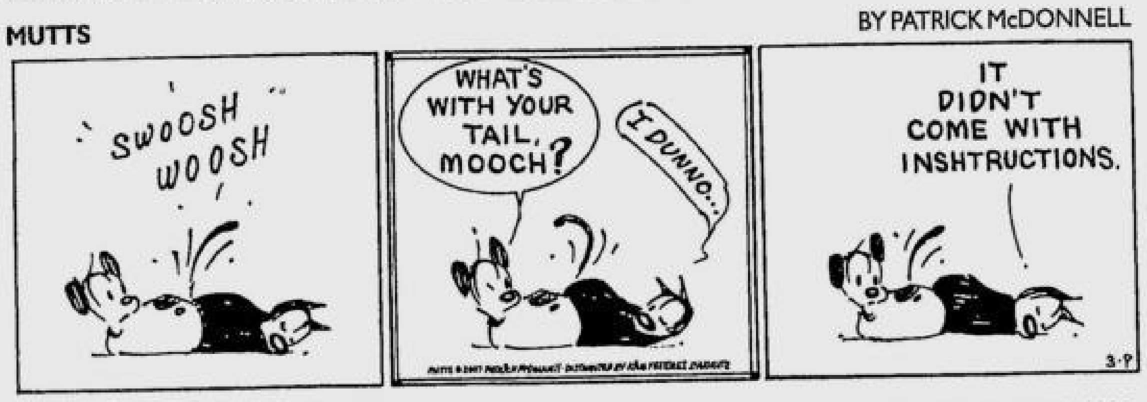
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


DALAWANG PELIKULA ANG NIREREKUMINDA KONG PANOORIN NG MGA TUMATAKBO SA HALALAN.
ANG ALL THE KING'S MEN WITH SEAN PENN AT MAN OF THE YEAR WITH ROBIN WILLIAMS.
SA ALL THE KING'S MEN E NAHALAL NA GOVERNOR 'YUNG KANDIDATONG BAGUHAN SA POLITIKA.
AT DAHIL NGA BAGUHAN E NOBLE ANG INTENTIONS N'YA SA UMPISA PERO HABANG NAGTATAGAL S'YA SA KAPANGYARIHAN E INABUSO RIN N'YA ANG "PERKS" NG KANYANG OFFICE.
SA MAN OF THE YEAR NAMAN E NASABI NG COMEDIAN NA KANDIDATO PARA PRESIDENTE NA, "POLITICIANS ARE LIKE DIAPERS, THEY HAVE TO BE CHANGED FROM TIME TO TIME, AND FOR THE SAME REASONS."
KUNG GANO'N E UNTI-UNTI NANG NAPUPUNO NG FERTILIZER ANG MALACAÑANG...
DIS IS A JOB FOR... JOCJOC BOLANTE!

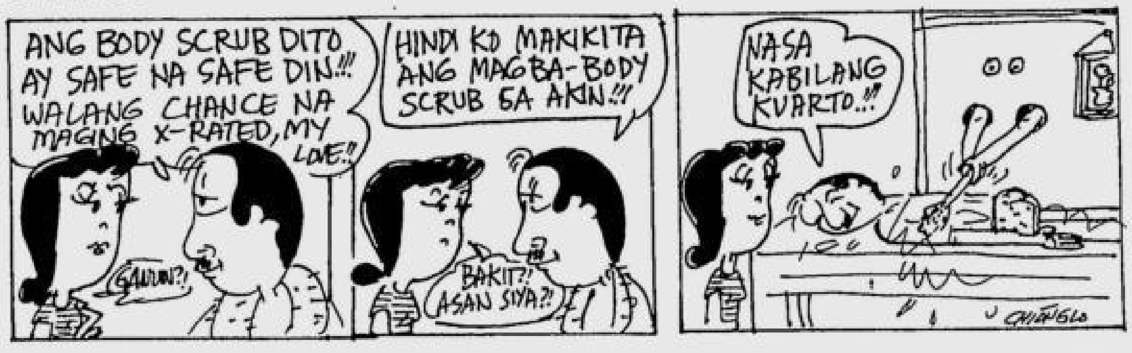
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SWOOSH WOOSH
WHAT'S WITH YOUR TAIL, MOOCH?
I DUNNO...
IT DIDN'T COME WITH INSHTRUCTIONS.
3-9

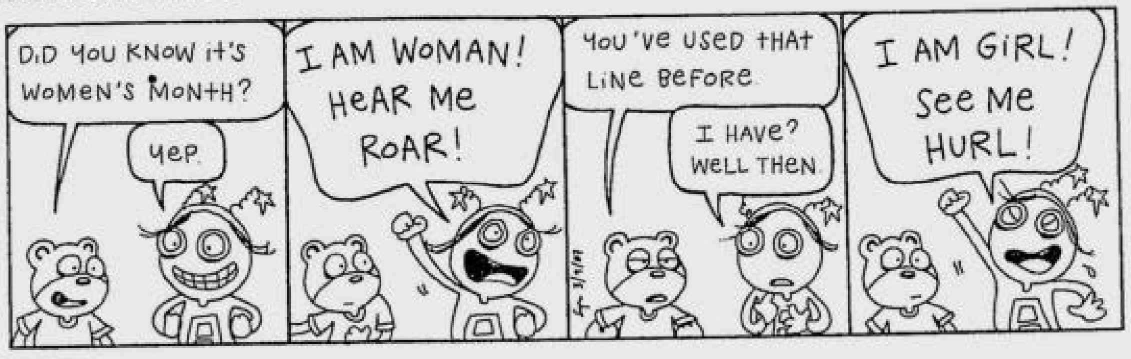
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG BODY SCRUB DITO AY SAFE NA SAFE DIN!!! WALANG CHANCE NA MAGING X-RATED, MY LOVE!!
GANUN?!
HINDI KO MAKIKITA ANG MAGBA-BODY SCRUB SA AKIN!!!
BAKIT?! ASAN SIYA?!
NASA KABILANG KUARTO!!
CHIONGLO

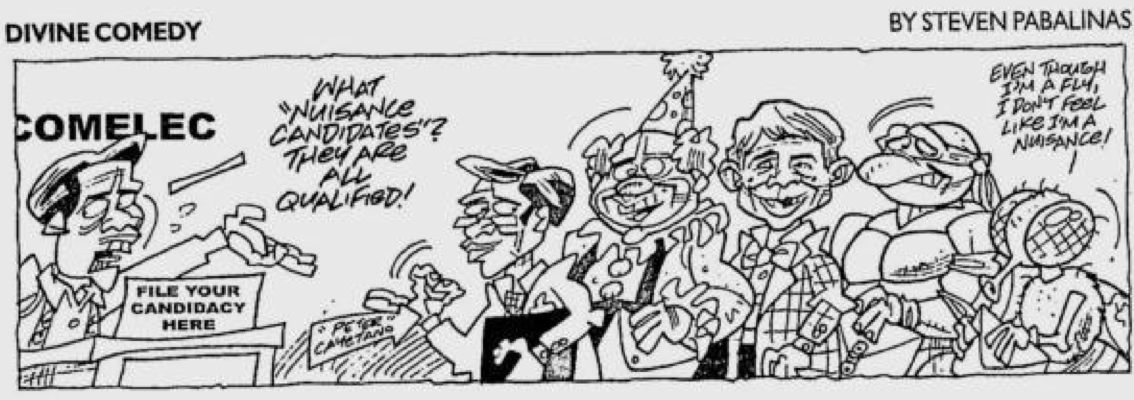
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


DID YOU KNOW IT'S WOMEN'S MONTH?
YEP.
I AM WOMAN! HEAR ME ROAR!
YOU'VE USED THAT LINE BEFORE.
I HAVE? WELL THEN.
I AM GIRL! SEE ME HURL!

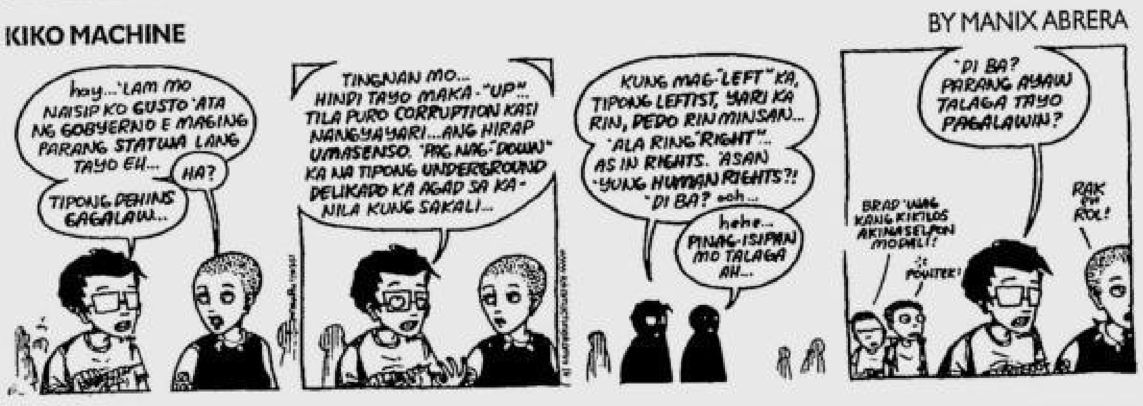
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


COMELEC
WHAT "NUISANCE CANDIDATES"? THEY ARE ALL QUALIFIED!
FILE YOUR CANDIDACY HERE
PETER CAYETANO
EVEN THOUGH I'M A FLY, I DON'T FEEL LIKE I'M A NUISANCE!

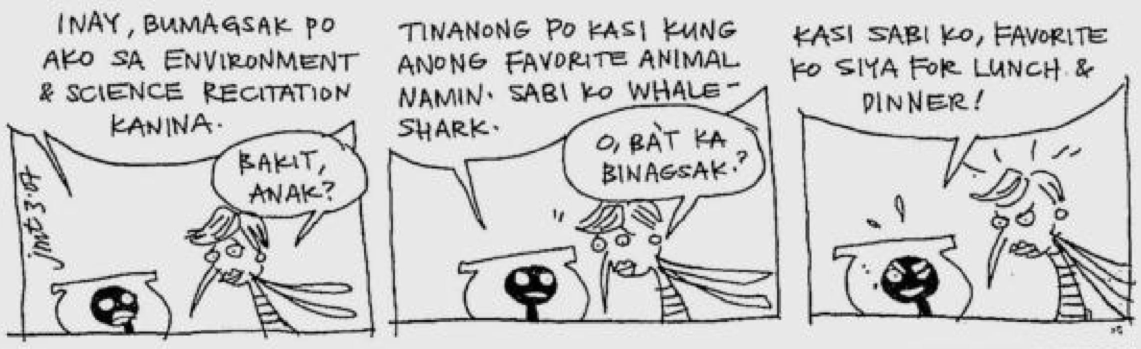
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


hay... 'lam mo naisip ko gusto 'ata ng gobyerno e maging parang statwa lang tayo eh...
HA?
TIPONG DEHINS GAGALAW...
TINGNAN MO... HINDI TAYO MAKA-"UP"... TILA PURO CORRUPTION KASI NANGYAYARI... ANG HIRAP UMASENSO. 'PAG NAG-"DOWN" KA NA TIPONG UNDERGROUND DELIKADO KA AGAD SA KA-NILA KUNG SAKALI...
KUNG MAG-"LEFT" KA, TIPONG LEFTIST, YARI KA RIN, PEDO RIN MINSAN... 'ALA RING "RIGHT"... AS IN RIGHTS. 'ASAN 'YUNG HUMAN RIGHTS?! 'DI BA? ooh...
hehe... PINAG-ISIPAN MO TALAGA AH...
BRAD 'WAG KANG KIKILOS AKINASELPON MODEL!!
POINTER!
'DI BA? PARANG AYAW TALAGA TAYO PAGALAWIN?
RAK EN ROL!

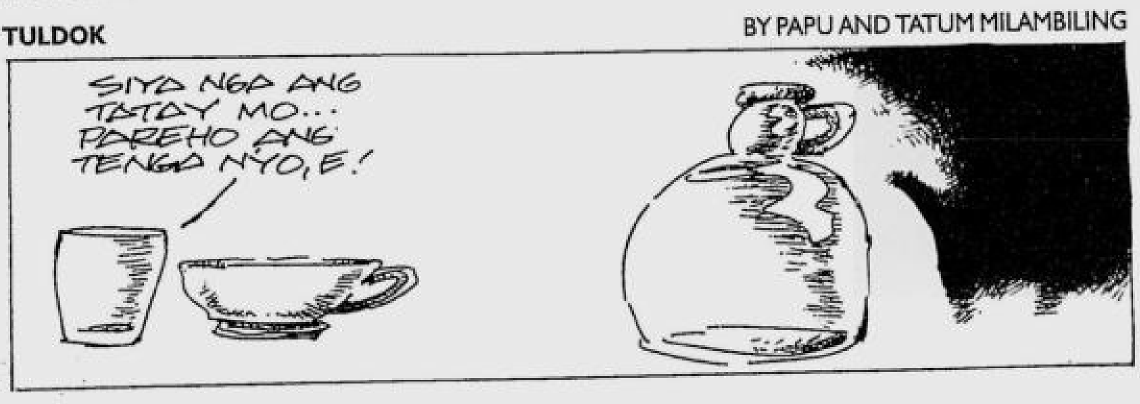
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


INAY, BUMAGSAK PO AKO SA ENVIRONMENT & SCIENCE RECITATION KANINA.
BAKIT, ANAK?
TINANONG PO KASI KUNG ANONG FAVORITE ANIMAL NAMIN. SABI KO WHALE-SHARK.
O, BAT KA BINAGSAK?
KASI SABI KO, FAVORITE KO SIYA FOR LUNCH & DINNER!

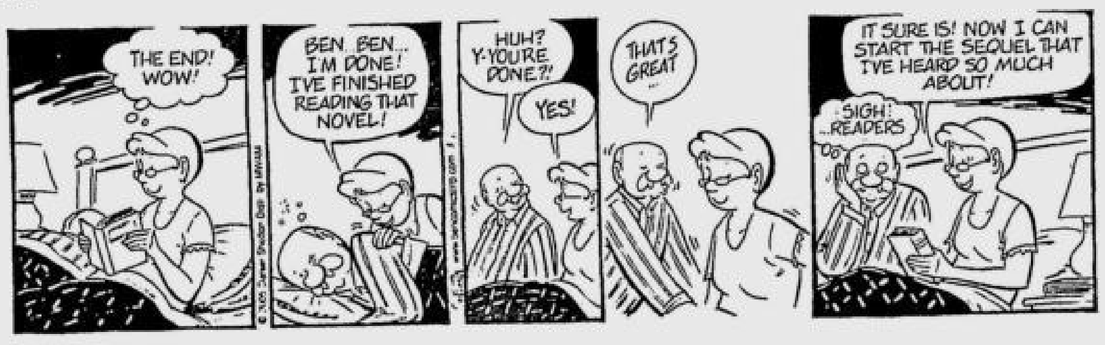
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SIYA NGA ANG TATAY MO... PAREHO ANG TENGA NYO, E!

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


THE END! WOW!
BEN, BEN... I'M DONE! I'VE FINISHED READING THAT NOVEL!
HUH? Y-YOU'RE DONE?!
YES!
THAT'S GREAT
IT SURE IS! NOW I CAN START THE SEQUEL THAT I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT!
SIGH! ...READERS

DAILY CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	10	■	11	12	13
14					■	15					■	16		
17					18						■	19		
20				■	21			■	22		23			
■	■	■	24	25			■	26				■	■	■
■	27	28					29					30	31	32
33					■	■	34				■	35		
36				■	37	38				■	39			
40			■	41				■	■	42				
43			44					45	46					■
■	■	■	47				■	48				■	■	■
49	50	51				■	52			■	53	54	55	56
57			■	58		59				60				
61			■	62					■	63				
64			■	65					■	66				

By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL

3/9/07

ACROSS
1 Requirements
6 Look after
11 Good humor
14 Be of use
15 To the max
16 Nest-egg $
17 "Coal Miner's Daughter" star
19 Just out
20 Actor Guinness
21 Sundial X
22 Antique car horn
24 Danube feeder
26 Ghana native
27 Black Sheep Squadron leader
33 With regret
34 Lawn invader
35 Have a life
36 Entice
37 Head lock
39 "Dragnet" creator Jack
40 Ginger __
41 Beheld
42 Long-haired Italian model
43 "Dream a Little Dream of Me" singer
47 Lose freshness
48 Codger
49 Curd product
52 Letters on Cardinals' caps
53 Dog of a movie
57 Claiborne of fashion
58 Cassius Clay's 2/25/64 opponent
61 Bobby of hockey
62 Outdo
63 Passed out
64 Word from a pro?
65 Crest
66 Parcels of suburbia

DOWN
1 Shuttle org.
2 Heinous
3 Simplicity
4 Follower
5 Foxy
6 Outstanding!
7 Distinctive flair
8 & so forth
9 Starship Enterprise followers
10 Berkeley's neighbor
11 Put the whammy on
12 Hydrox rival
13 Open wide
18 Spend the night
23 Director Lee
25 Secret agent
26 Mates' agreements
27 Dancer Abdul
28 Pertinent, in law
29 Wide receiver Terrell
30 Billy Blanks workout system
31 Planet's path
32 Moses's mount
33 Bridge coup
37 "Spanglish" co-star
38 Unwind
39 Hold on!
41 Use cutters
42 "Alice" spinoff
44 Wonderment
45 Facsimile
46 Droop lazily
49 Surfeit
50 Bring on board
51 Poet Pound
52 Close-fitting
54 Have the lead
55 Lacquered metalware
56 Aardvark lunch
59 Homer's neighbor
60 Crete peak

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

S	E	T	S	■	D	I	S	C	■	O	S	C	A	R
I	S	A	O	■	I	N	T	O	■	F	O	O	T	E
M	A	U	L	■	A	B	U	T	■	T	A	R	A	S
I	U	S	E	D	T	O	B	E	A	■	P	E	R	I
■	■	■	M	A	R	X	■	D	I	S	D	A	I	N
B	R	A	N	D	I	■	D	A	L	A	I	■	■	■
Y	U	L	■	■	B	A	E	Z	■	F	S	T	O	P
T	E	A	C	H	E	R	B	U	T	I	H	A	V	E
E	R	N	I	E	■	E	U	R	O	■	■	R	A	E
■	■	■	N	A	G	A	T	■	R	E	C	A	L	L
G	E	N	E	T	I	C	■	G	I	L	A	■	■	■
I	B	A	R	■	N	O	C	L	A	S	S	N	O	W
L	E	T	A	T	■	D	O	O	M	■	T	O	M	E
D	R	A	M	A	■	E	S	S	O	■	L	O	N	E
A	T	L	A	S	■	S	A	S	S	■	E	N	I	D

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3/9/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're a visionary. You're highly romantic and very intelligent. You're definitely an idea person, and you can give others good advice. You're curious about everything, but inclined to resist authority. You prefer to rely on your instincts. You're loving and reliable, but you need a lot of freedom. This year you will face an important choice. Choose wisely.

Birthdate of: Juliette Binoche, actress; Emmanuel Lewis, actor; Raul Julia actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You can accomplish a lot today. In particular, you might want to finish some projects that are hobbies or arts-and-crafts endeavors. It's also a good day to plan for a vacation.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Someone else might help you make improvements at home today. Conversely, this is a good day to do some research to help secure your long-term future.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Someone older probably has some good advice for you today. It doesn't hurt to listen. After all, you don't have to reinvent the wheel. Why not stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before you?

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You have an opportunity to impress bosses, VIPs, parents or any kind of authority figure in your life today. People see you as reliable, conscientious and dependable. (Milk this for all it's worth!)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Make long-range plans for educational matters, training or travel. Political and religious discussions will be serious but worthwhile.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Someone could invest money for you or give you something today. In some fashion, you can earn a long-term benefit through the wealth of others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might want to team up with someone of a different age at this time. Partnerships can definitely have a long-term benefit for you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This can be an extremely productive day at work. Older or experienced people will help you, and in turn, they're impressed with your efforts and productivity.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Those of you who work with children will find this to be a gratifying, rewarding day. Any artistic expression will be very solid today. You know what you're doing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Make long-range plans about family, real estate and domestic matters today. Your ideas for renovations and architectural input are solid and attractive.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're really in the groove today. This is an excellent time to sign contracts or join forces with others. You know how to marry pleasure and work right now.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): If shopping today, whatever you buy will be attractive, but it will also be practical and long-lasting. You want value for your dollar. Pay attention to your moneymaking ideas, because they are worthwhile!

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

	3	7						
		1			5			
					4			9
					2		9	4
4								5
2	6		8					
7			4					
			3			6		
						7	1	

Difficulty Level ★★★★

3/09

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

6	1	9	7	4	8	5	3	2
8	2	3	5	6	1	7	9	4
7	5	4	2	3	9	8	1	6
5	6	7	1	2	3	4	8	9
2	4	1	9	8	7	3	6	5
3	9	8	4	5	6	2	7	1
1	3	5	6	7	4	9	2	8
4	8	6	3	9	2	1	5	7
9	7	2	8	1	5	6	4	3

Difficulty Level ★★★

JAMES McAVOY

ANDREW Lee Potts & Hannah Spearritt

RED CARPET

'Becoming Jane' preem

... at London's Leicester Square on March 4. *Reuters*

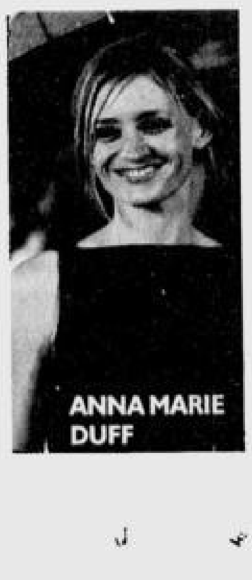
LINZI Stoppard & Hofit Golan

EMILIA FOX

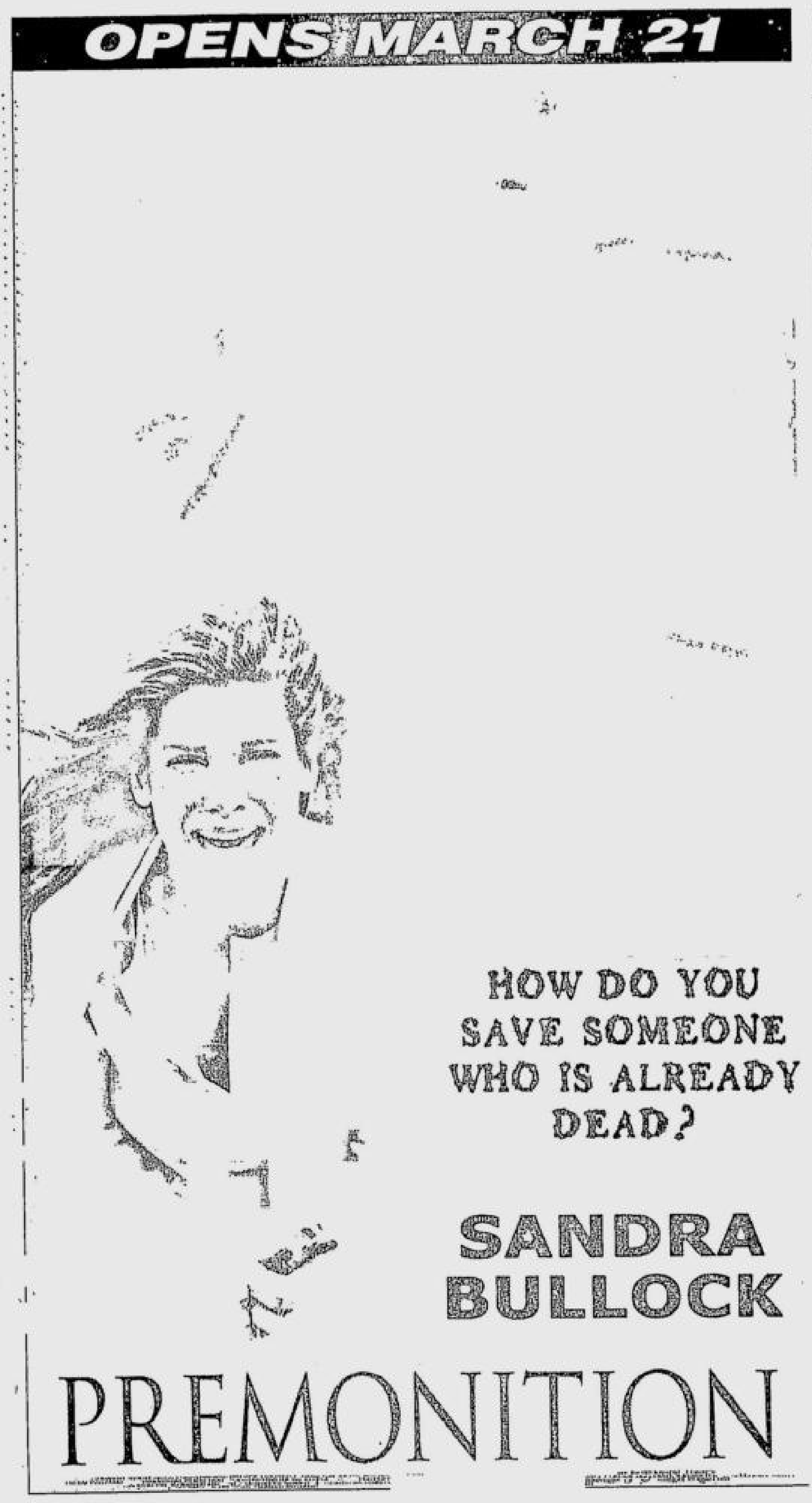
KATHY LETTE

JESSICA ASHWORTH

LUCY COHU



ANNA MARIE DUFF



OPENS MARCH 21

HOW DO YOU SAVE SOMEONE WHO IS ALREADY DEAD?

SANDRA BULLOCK

PREMONITION

Araneta Center
aranetacenter.net

Gateway Alimall FarmersPlaza

ACADEMY AWARD WINNER BEST PICTURE

"The road is twisted and so are the laughs. This one is a winner."

CARELL COLLETTE DANO BRESLIN ARKIN

LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE
everyone pretend to be norr

www.foxsearchlight.com

2007 ACADEMY OSCAR AWARD WINNER
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PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS
1:4[illegible] 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:50

THE HITCHER
12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30

DEAD PEOPLE 2
1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30

GHOST RIDER
4:50 / 9:40

BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
1:05 / 3.15 / 7.35

YOU GOT ME
12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30

MUSIC & LYRICS
5:25 / 9:45

IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
12:30 / 2:40 / 7:20

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Alimall 5

1 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS
12:20 / 3:00 / 5:40 / 8:20

2 THE GOOD SHEPHERD
2:10 R5 / 2:05 / 5:20 / 8:35

3 300
12:50 / 3:20 / 5:50 / 8:20

4 DEAD PEOPLE 2
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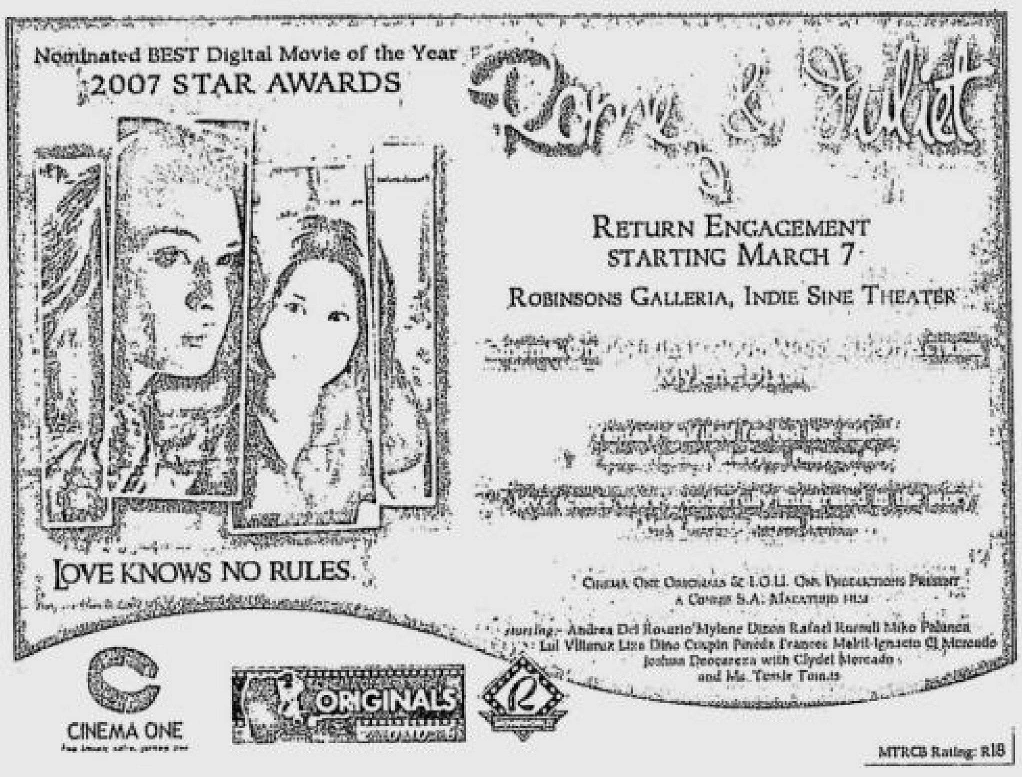

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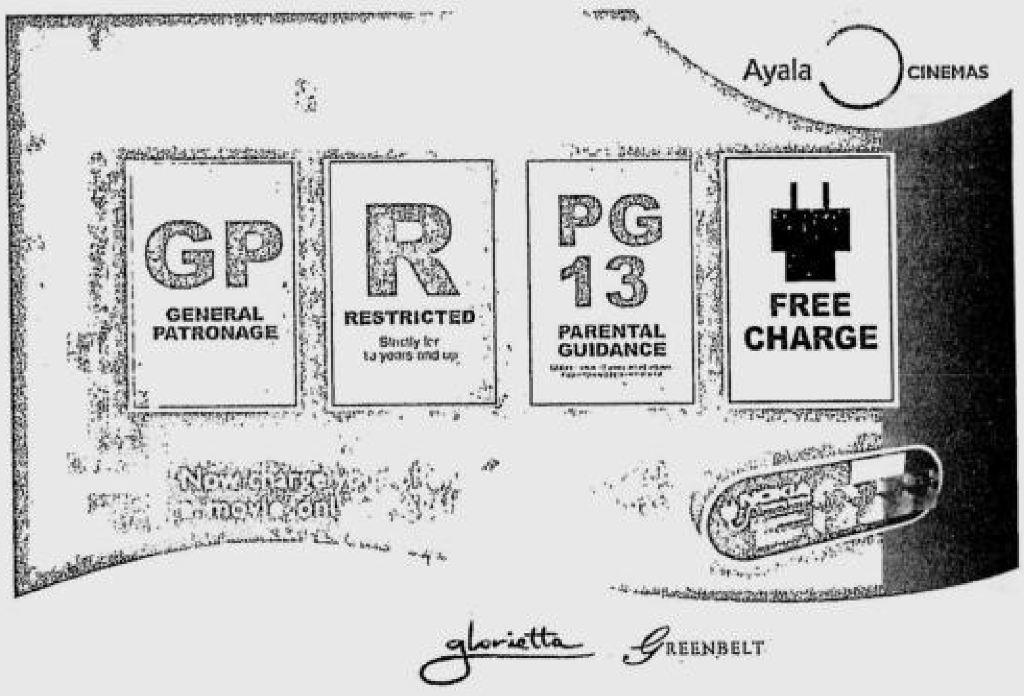

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David Lynch's disconcerting art

HOBBIES

PARIS—WHAT IS IT LIKE TO glimpse into the mind of filmmaker David Lynch? A new exhibition in Paris shows that it is every bit as twisted as a true fan could hope for.

The exhibition, "The Air is on Fire," is the most complete showing of Lynch's visual art to date. It includes paintings, photographs and countless doodles on Post-it notes, hotel stationery and napkins from Bob's Big Boy diner.

Some sketches date back to 61-year-old Lynch's high school days—when, oddly enough, the "Blue Velvet" and "Mulholland Drive" director worked his way toward the rank of Eagle Scout.

Though many works have touches of Lynch's quirky humor, the recurring themes are disconcerting, from leering women in red lipstick to decomposing corpses. Lynch even manages to make photos of snowmen look creepy.

At a news conference, Lynch was asked if he was a happy man. "Very happy," he replied. Then he faced a battery of scholarly questions.

"What attracts you to the theme of metamorphosis?" one reporter asked. "I don't know," Lynch deadpanned. What did blue symbolize in his oeuvre? "It's a beautiful color," he said.

"So much of these … have nothing to do with an intellectual thing," he insisted. "It's an intuitive journey."

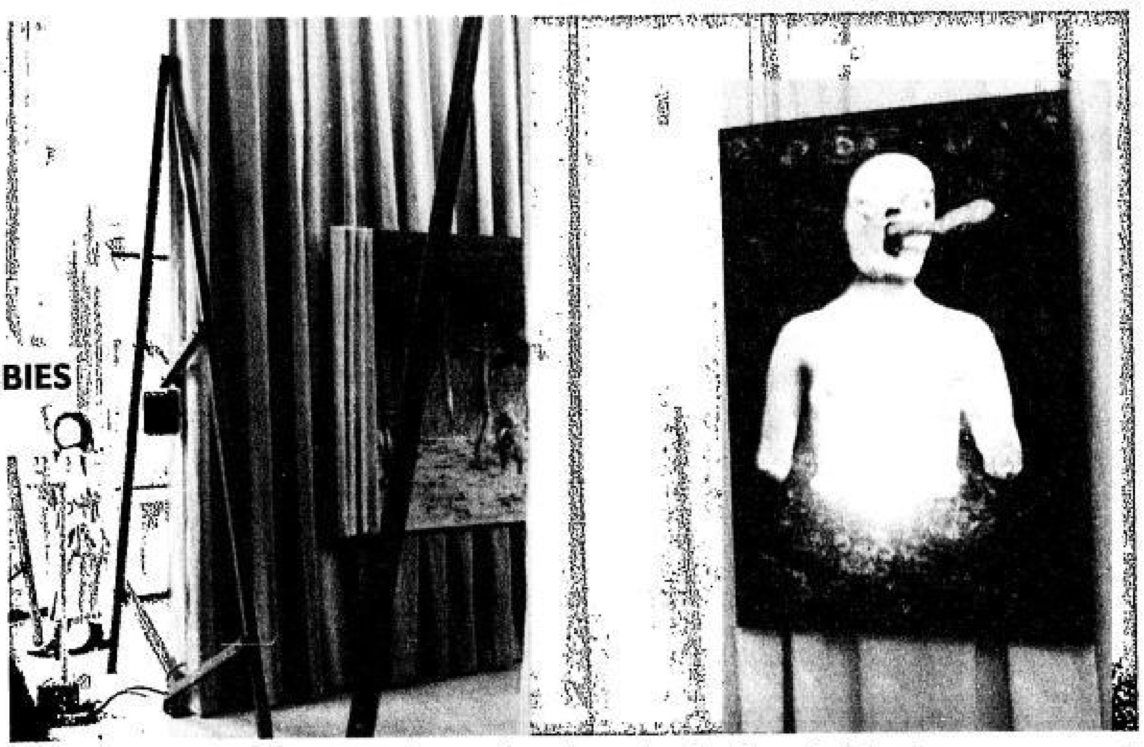
The news conference took a bizarre turn. An aspiring actress grabbed the microphone, begged Lynch to remake "Blue Velvet" in France, sang the movie's title song in off-key French, then threw her arms up in a flourish.

"You did a very beautiful job singing," Lynch said, politely thanking her. But though he loved France and was a regular visitor, he added, he wasn't sure he would shoot a movie here. Lynch won the Cannes Film Festival's top prize in 1990 for "Wild At Heart," and he headed the Cannes jury in 2002.

The exhibition opened to the public last Saturday. Chief curator Herve Chandes, in putting it together, visited Lynch in Los Angeles many times, digging through boxes and notebooks filled with doodles.

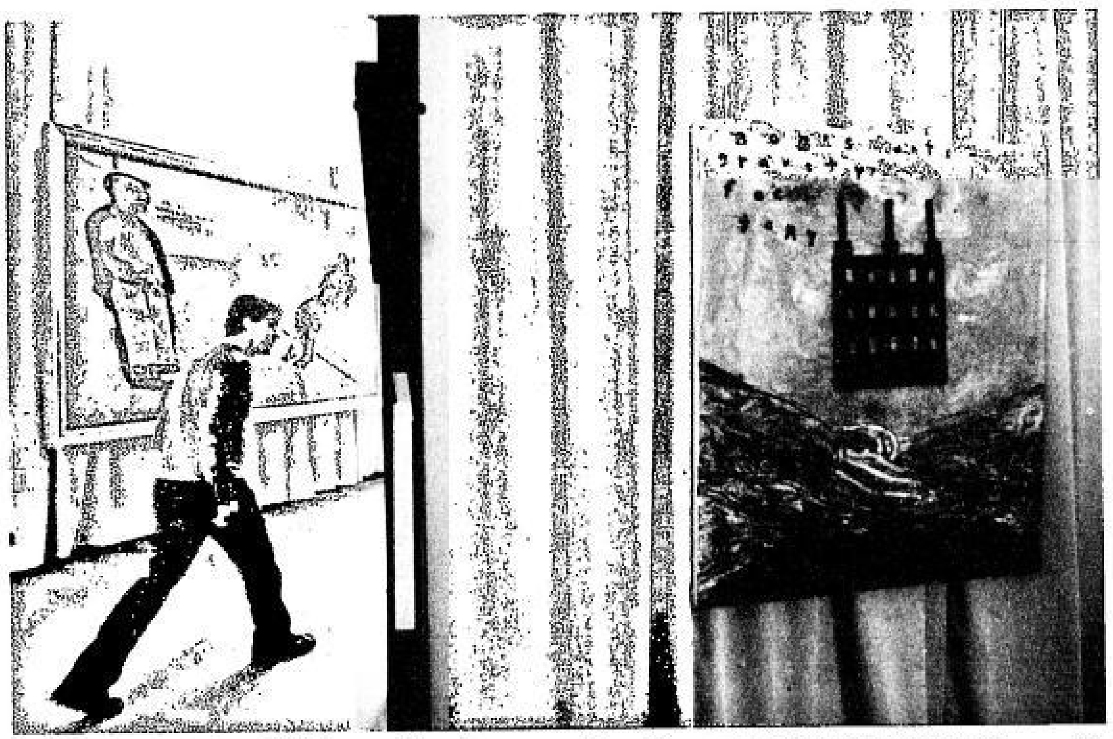
Lynch designed the layout of the exhibition himself, leading viewers between metal scaffolding, behind tall film backdrops, down a dark staircase and into a tiny movie theater to see his early short films. He also worked with sound designers to come up with a backdrop of grinding, low-pitched industrial noises.

"The Air is on Fire" runs at the Cartier Foundation for Contemporary Art through May 27.



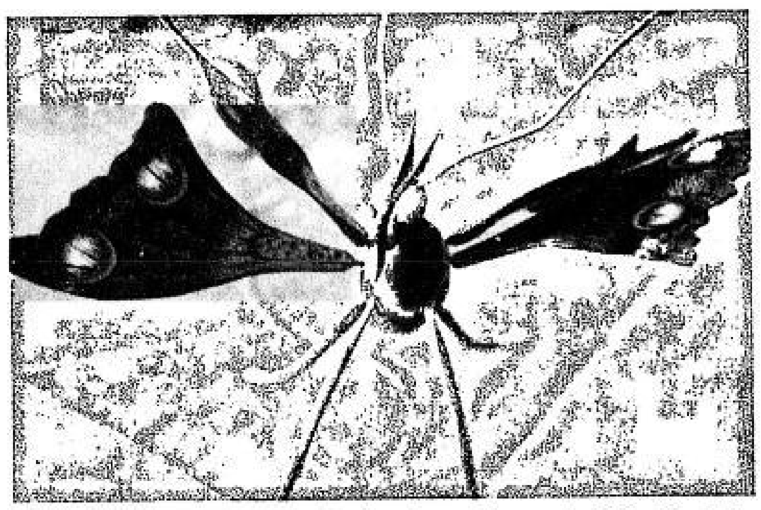
THE EXHIBIT consists of paintings, photographs and countless doodles on Post-it notes. AFP

FILMMAKER David Lynch at the opening of "The Air is on Fire." AFP

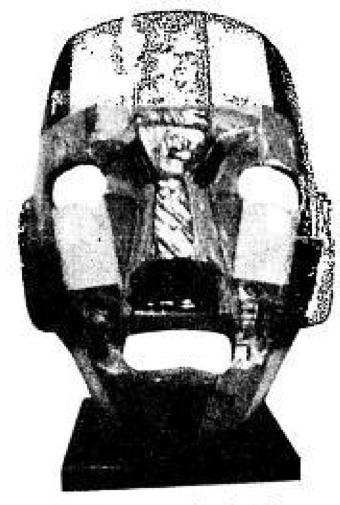


LYNCH designed the exhibit layout himself, even working with sound designers for emphasis. AFP

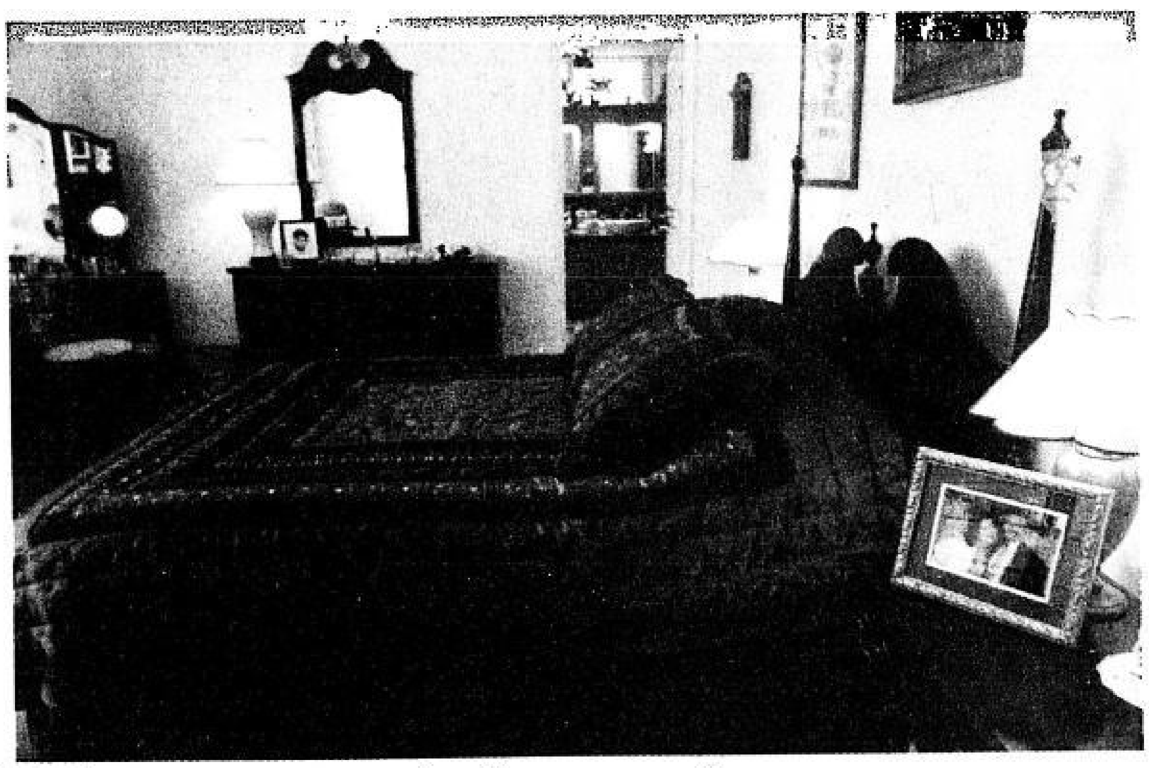
In his paintings & photographs, the iconic director of 'Blue Velvet' manages to make everything look creepy—even snowmen



RAINBOW butterfly is from Mexico. Butterflies remind Ali of her late son Miko.



ONYX Aztec mask, also from Mexico.



MASTER bedroom follows the "eclectic" theme: Western furniture, Eastern bed spread and pillow covers.

Around the world, at home

From page G2

lily. The garden set (from Mexico) and the solid narra dining set (from the Philippines, but redesigned in Mexico) feature the same floral engraving," says Ali. "He has also filled the place with butterfly accents."

Butterflies remind Ali of her late son Miko. "Omar bought the china cabinet because it's painted with little butterflies," she says.

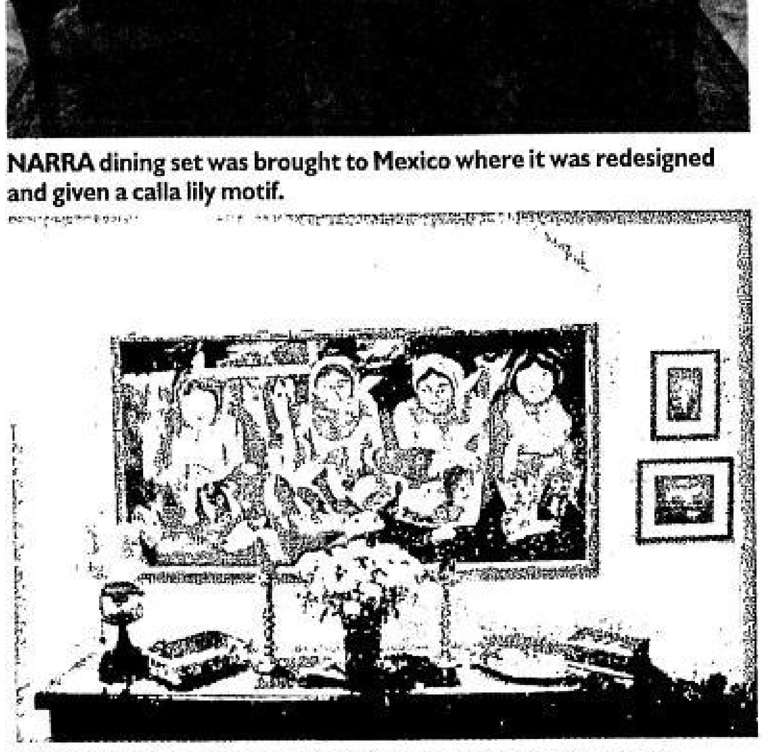
Quite aptly, the china cabinet is from China.

"It's very eclectic," Omar describes their Makati home. "Everywhere you turn, there's something that reminds you of the other places we've visited or have called home. It reflects the history of our life together."

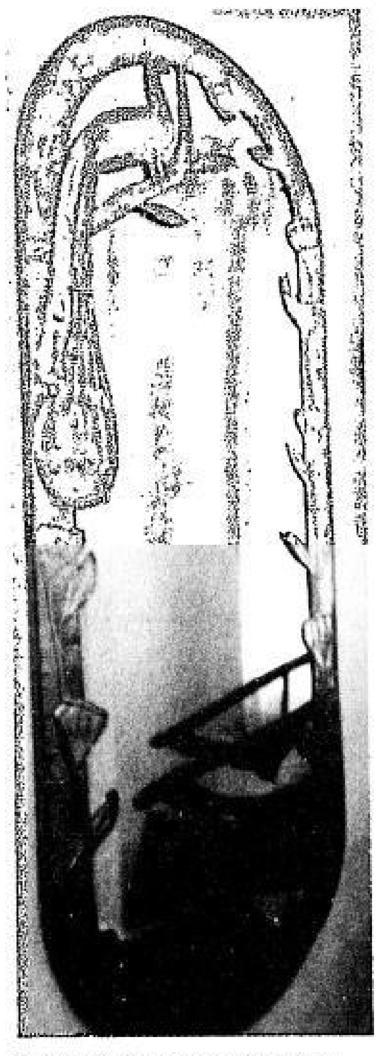
Ali agrees: "It's fusion. A mix of Asian, European, Middle-Eastern, North African. It's international."

Like their romance.

NARRA dining set was brought to Mexico where it was redesigned and given a calla lily motif.



DINING room showcases a calla lily buffet table and a painting depicting Filipina fish vendors by Dandy Roy.



PEACOCK mirror, again from Mexico, where the Bsaies lived from 2000 to 2003.

GARDEN teems with ferns and birds of paradise. "It's like a rainforest here," says Ali. The calla lily garden set is from … yes, Mexico; the antique table, from the Philippines.

OFF-CAM

Enhancements, not surgeries

LANI MISALUCHA ADMITS SHE'S HAD HER nose done and her eye bags removed.

"Nothing invasive," she told Living Stars. "They just injected vitamins [around my eyes]. I also had an injection for my nose. These are just enhancements, not surgeries."

Much earlier, she had a radical dental reconstruction to refine her pout. "That was when we were still living here," the singer said. "The eye bags, the nose, I had them done in the States, and they cost a lot."

LANI MISALUCHA ROGER CARPIO

Lani left for the US with her family in 2004. They have since settled in Las Vegas, where she performs five days a week at the Flamingo Hotel with the Society of Seven. She's visiting Manila for a month to promote her album, "Lani Misalucha" (Universal Records), and to star in a concert, "Missing You," at the Araneta Coliseum on March 17.

Misalucha, who has two daughters, described her life in Vegas as very "routine."

"I wake up at about 6 a.m. and cook lunch for my family at around 10. I drive to work at around noon. I prepare for my show, which starts at 3 p.m. and ends at 4:30 p.m. Then I have autograph signing until 5—longer, if there are more people than usual. Then I go to Chinatown to buy groceries." *Nini Valera*

BEAN ON BONDI

BRITISH comedian and actor Rowan Atkinson dressed as his alter ego, Mr Bean, right, relaxes on Sydney's Bondi Beach on Wednesday. Atkinson is in Australia to promote his new movie, "Mr Bean's Holiday." AFP

WE ARE FAMILY

BRITISH model and actress Elizabeth Hurley leaves a city hotel in Mumbai on Wednesday, below right. Hurley married Indian businessman Arun Nayar on March 2 in a private ceremony at Sudeley Castle in southwest England's Gloucestershire County followed by a star-studded reception in a castle the next day. Nayar is seen with Hurley's son Damien, bottom right, following the actress into a waiting limo. AFP

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4 THE GOOD SHEPHERD
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THE GOOD SHEPHERD R13 12:45,4:00,7:15,10:30	HITCHER R13 2:00,4:00,6:00, 8:00,10:00	300 R13 11:50,2:20,4:50, 7:20,9:50

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CINEMA 4 A GOOD SHEPHERD
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10:35
R-13

CINEMA 5 300
11:10 , 2:00 , 4:50
7:40 , 10:30
R-13

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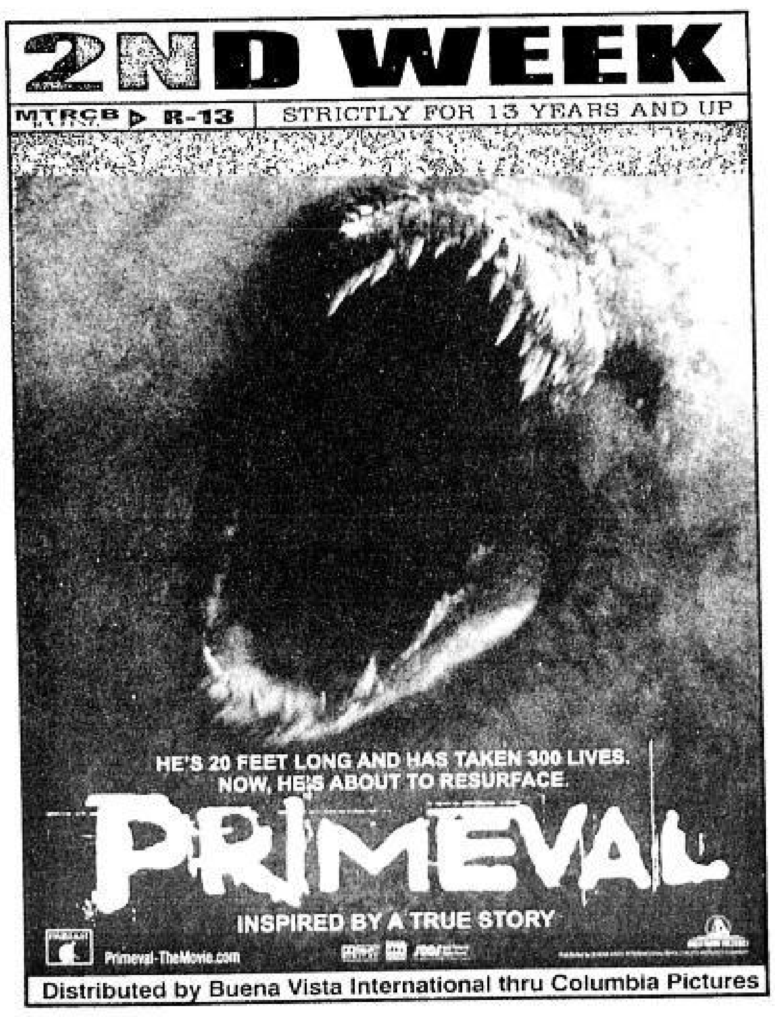

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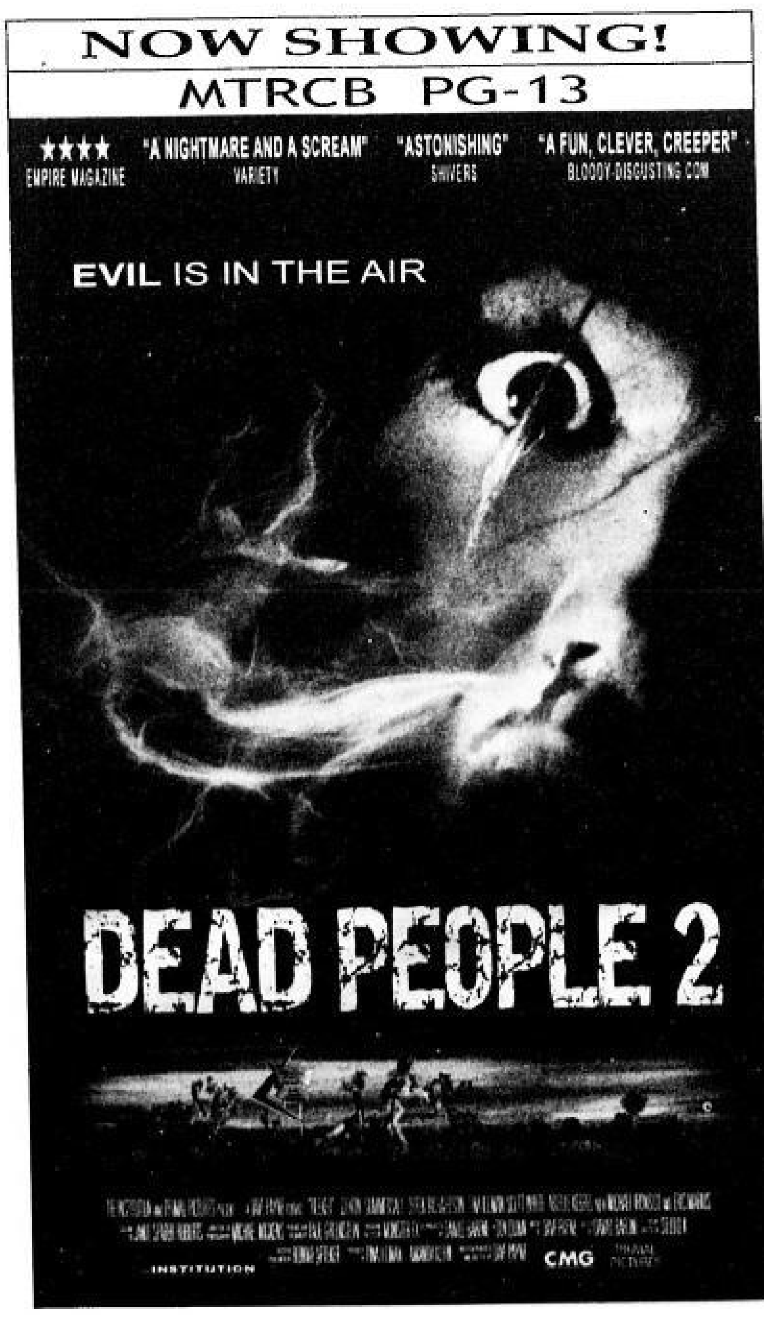

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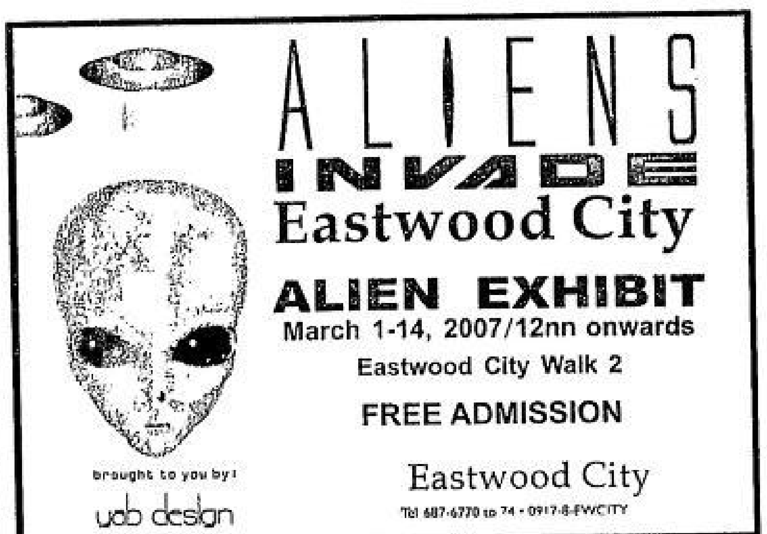

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12:40, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00
G

3 THE GOOD SHEPERD
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R-13

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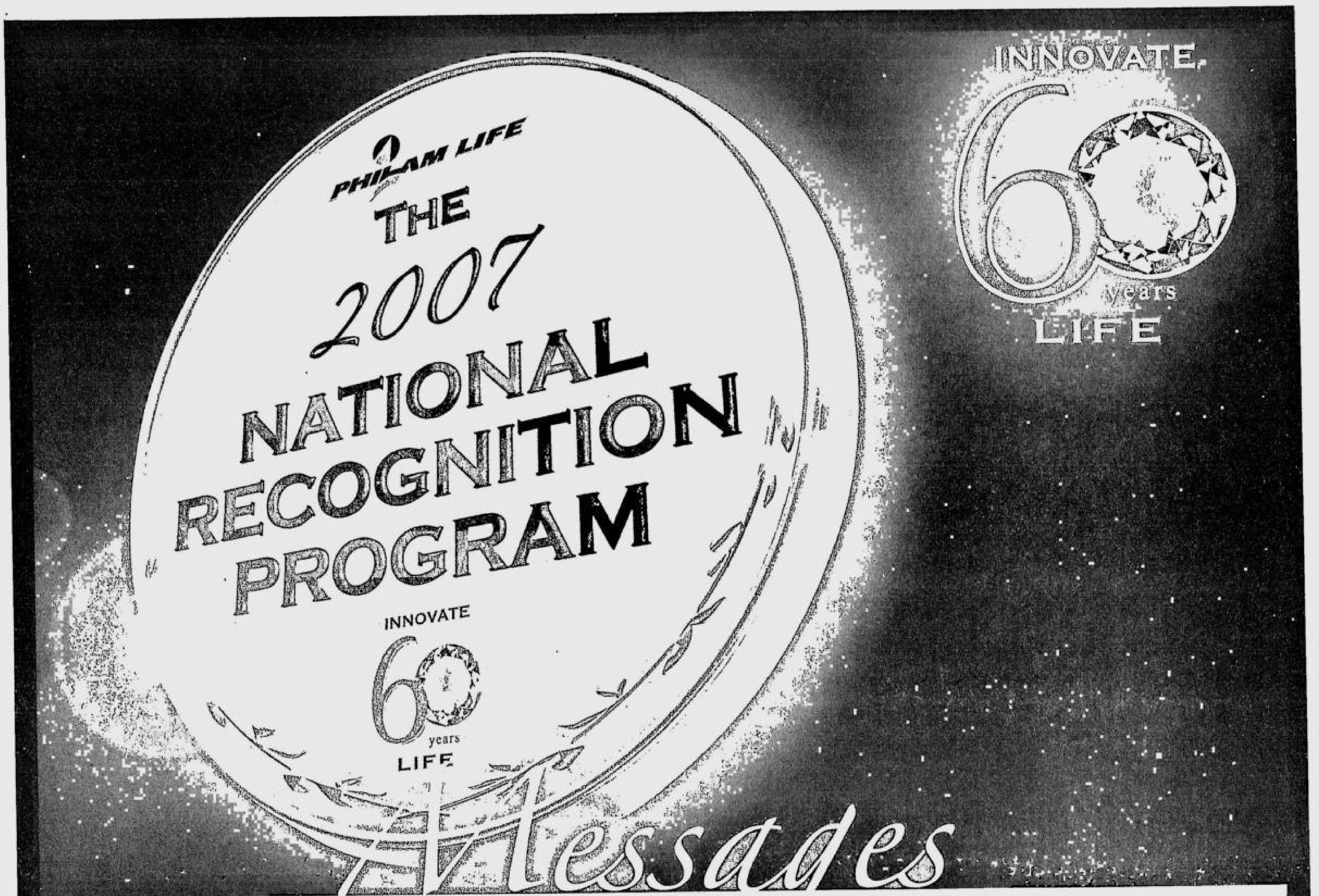

THE 2007 NATIONAL RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Messages

With profound pleasure, the Insurance Commission extends its congratulations to Philamlife's 2007 National Recognition Program honorees.

We highly commend you for being awarded your Company's highest set of distinctions, made more prestigious and precious as Philamlife celebrates its 60th Anniversary this year. True to your theme "Innovate Life", your recognition all the more solidifies your stature as trailblazers for your Company...a shining exemplar to your peers...true innovators of the Philippine life insurance industry.

The numerous honors bestowed upon the best and brightest in this year's National Recognition Program reflects the many facets of Philamlife's agency force. Indeed, you are among the life insurance professionals and financial advisors of the highest value in the Philippines. You provide Philamlife's glitter not only to its Diamond Celebration but to its stature as the leading insurance company in the country.

With Philamlife continuing to lead the way for the local life insurance industry, we cite you for your invaluable contribution to the local life insurance industry as you also prove instrumental in making your Company continue to shine brightest through time.

On behalf of the Insurance Commission, I send my warmest congratulations to all of you. Philamlife Awardees, shine on --- and more power!

EVANGELINE CRISOSTOMO-ESCOBILLO
Insurance Commissioner

The Philamlife family happily celebrates the successes of this year's National Recognition Program Awardees. While the National Recognition Programs (NRP) are always special, this NRP is doubly special because this year marks Philamlife's sixtieth founding anniversary – sixty years of bringing Earl Carroll's dream of *a Philamlife policy in every Filipino home* closer to reality.

Philamlife salutes its top agents and the rest of our agency force for continuing to serve the Filipino family as it aspires for a better future through savings, financial protection and investments.

We also thank our insured public for continuing to trust in us – the country's undisputed leader in life insurance, as well as our number one agency force. We reaffirm our commitment to serve you and your families for the next sixty years.

JOSE L. CUISIA JR.
President & CEO

My resounding congratulations to all our national awardees! You deserve a standing ovation for being our very best examples of fortitude and success during one of the most dramatic years we have experienced in Philamlife.

Our 2007 National Recognition Program will have fewer honorees than previous NRPs, but considering the fact that Philamlife ended 2006 with a 34% increase in new premium production, we can truly say that you made a much more heroic contribution, and our agency force collectively played a more significant role than before.

The fact that you made it to the 2007 National Recognition Program is a badge of honor that radiantly reflects your enviable success in life insurance selling. Whether you are a new or returning awardee, your ability to excel is unquestionable. As you look ahead, it should be with the conviction that your confidence and proven abilities will bring you an even brighter future in the service of our fellow Filipinos. From now on, what should preoccupy your thoughts is not how you can succeed but how you can sustain your success for a lifetime! May this be the spirit that guides you from this point and onward.

Philamlife has done well because you have championed its mission with distinction. We will continue to count on your help as our organization steers through stronger and rougher periods of change. As our entire industry adapts to new and even transformational conditions, we trust you will remain steadfast in your response as well as in your service to the community. On behalf of Sales, Marketing & Training, we salute your accomplishments, but the most meaningful tribute ultimately comes from your clients and their loved ones whose lives have become more secure because of what you have done for them.

Thank you for everything you have done to this day for Philamlife and for your fellow Filipinos.

JESUS G. HOFILENA, FLMI, LLIF
EVP-Sales, Marketing & Training

Philamlife is proud to celebrate 60 years in the Philippines and half a century of leadership in the life insurance industry. None of this would have been possible without its strong agency force that, in the early days after the Second World War, contributed to nation building by coaxing fellow Filipinos to liberate their precious Pesos from bamboo coin banks and purchase life insurance policies to protect futures.

Today, the old fashioned coin banks are gone, but the Philamlife agent continues to help Filipino families plan for the future while mobilizing long term savings to spur the economic growth of the Philippines.

My warm congratulations to our 2007 National Awardees: the top agents and agency leaders of Philamlife. My best wishes for your continued success.

EDMUND S. W. TSE
Chairman of the Board

An exceptional trait shared by Philamlife's crème de la crème in this year's National Recognition Program is *perseverance*. Your award is even made more special by the fact that you persevered amidst the many changes and challenges brought about by FY 2006, catapulting you to a spot revered by the rest of the agency force. Instead of resisting change and fearing challenge, you transformed them into opportunities, and arrived victoriously as expected.

My heartfelt thanks to you for giving nothing but your best to Philamlife. This expression of gratitude goes up to your families and loved ones who are instrumental to your success.

As we celebrate Philamlife's 60th anniversary, I count on each of you to continue leading our founder's vision to bring a Philamlife policy to every Filipino home. To help you in this noble quest, there is Brilliance, Longevity, Abundance, and Leisure; and you can expect more innovative and suited-to-your-client products coming your way this year. This and the enhanced agency compensation scheme, coupled with exciting agency sales promotions and intense media advertising, will make our mission more achievable than ever.

Again, my warmest congratulations to all the awardees. I hope that this outstanding feat will inspire you to again work towards excellence in our Diamond year.

MICHEL KHALAF
Deputy President & COO

Fiscal year 2006 tested your resolve to succeed. The many changes and the unending challenges in our business could have been convenient excuses to under perform. But you faced them head-on and came out victorious.

Your achievement advances Philamlife's vision of providing financial protection to each family in our country. And as we celebrate our company's 60th anniversary this year, let us re-affirm our full support to that vision and in making a positive and meaningful difference in the lives of many.

My heartfelt thanks to all of you, our dear awardees. You are a worthy model to your peers in the company. May you continue to be in the forefront of our continuing quest for sales excellence and service to others.

Congratulations!

ARIEL G. CANTOS
SVP & Chief Agency Officer

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Associates of the Year

Philamlife's top Agents and Agency Leaders who achieved the honor and distinction of being the Company's most productive sales professionals for Performance Year 2006.

AGENT OF THE YEAR

ROSARIO C. SALIENTES
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

Agent Category

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Top Manila

RODOLFO M. MALLARI
Pampanga–Del Rosario Agency
Top Provincial

MA. ELENA G. ASTURIAS
Del Mundo Associates
1st Runner-up Manila

MARIE W. ALOS
La Trinidad–Flores Agency
1st Runner-up Provincial

UNIT MANAGER OF THE YEAR

NILDA C. UY
Del Mundo Associates

Unit Manager Category

AGENCY MANAGER OF THE YEAR

LOURDES M. DEL MUNDO, LUTCF
Del Mundo Associates

Agency Manager Category

ANNA CONCEPCION C. BLANCO
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates
Top Manila

VICENTE G. TAN
Cebu-Tan Agency
Top Provincial

SEGUNDINA O. TAN
Tan Associates
1st Runner-up Manila

EDGAR M. DUMAYAS
La Trinidad–Flores Agency
1st Runner-up Provincial

ROSARIO C. SALIENTES
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates
Top Manila

JUAN A. TAN
Tan Associates
1st Runner-up Manila

MELBA L. TAN
Cebu-Tan Agency
Top Provincial

VERONICA S. GONZALEZ
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates
Top Manila

PABLO O. TAMALA, JR.
Pagadian-Tamala Agency
1st Runner-up Provincial

Premier Agent's Club

This elite club recognizes distinguished members for their superior performance in quality business, exceptional first year production and professional agency values. They stand as vanguards, leading the field in exceptional professionalism — such is the hallmark of a premier agent of the premier Company.

PLATINUM

SHIRLEY L. CO
Tan Associates
9 Years Platinum PAC Member

LOURDES M. DEL MUNDO, LUTCF
Del Mundo Associates
8 Years PAC Member

THERESITAS N. PANOPIO
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates
5 Years PAC Member

MA. TERESA D. HERNANDEZ
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates
3 Years PAC Member

CORAZON KI ANG
CK Ang Associates
9 Years PAC Member

NILDA C. UY
Del Mundo Associates
8 Years PAC Member

EDEN L. JALOSJOS
Del Mundo Associates
4 Years PAC Member

DAISY U. SERRANO
Capili Associates
PAC Member

GOLD

CHAN SIU ENG
Tan Associates
8 Years PAC Member

NANCY BAUTISTA-ESPIRITU
Espiritu Associates
7 Years PAC Member

RODOLFO M. MALLARI
Pampanga-Del Rosario Agency
4 Years PAC Member

LOURDES E. BERNARDO
Bernardo Associates
3 Years PAC Member

LUZVIMINDA F. MORENO
Del Mundo Associates
PAC Member

ANTONINA S. SOLOMON
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates
7 Years PAC Member

FLORENTINA M. ARDIDON
Antipolo-Ardidon Associates
5 Years PAC Member

MA. ANTONIETTA Q. DEL MUNDO, FLMI
Del Mundo Associates
3 Years PAC Member

ANICIA Q. DE GUZMAN
Pangasinan-De Guzman Agency
2 Years PAC Member

SILVER

GUEI TAY GI
Tan Associates
6 Years PAC Member

MARISSA V. TAGUINOD
INV-Mata Agency
5 Years PAC Member

IRENE B. VILLENA
Cavite-Medrano Agency
5 Years PAC Member

ELENITA V. BELIGANIO
Bulacan-Maturino Agency
3 Years PAC Member

PATRICIA W. YAM, LUTCF
Yam Associates
3 Years PAC Member

BELLA M. ALVAREZ
Quezon-Maliwanag Agency
6 Years PAC Member

YOLANDA A. MORTEL, LUTCF
Mortel Associates
5 Years PAC Member

METHODIO V. MAGNAYE
Capule Associates
4 Years PAC Member

JEANETTE C. FABICO
Monteverde Associates
3 Years PAC Member

ROSSANNA S. UY
Del Mundo Associates
3 Years PAC Member

FLORA G. ARELLANO
Batangas-Comia Agency
3 Years PAC Member

MABEL MADELEINE T. PO
Cebu-Tan Agency
2 Years PAC Member

JAIME R. PARAISO
Melendres Associates
PAC Member

MILAGROS R. SOREACH
Cebu-Tan Agency
PAC Member

EMELITA C. LAO
CK Ang Associates
PAC Member

ERLINDA S. CANDO
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates
PAC Member

SALUD P. CAPILI
Capili Associates
2 Years PAC Member

MARIO S. BUTAD
Pagadian-Tamala Agency
2 Years PAC Member

EVA MARIE M. GALVEZ
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates
PAC Member

MA. ESTRELLA C. MATUNOG
Cebu-Tan Agency
PAC Member

CONSOLACION C. BLANCO
Antonio Associates
PAC Member

The Million Dollar Round Table*

The Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) is the Premier Association of Financial Professionals. ®

These men and women are accomplished, ethical professionals who are considered to be among the best in the world.

* Agents who met the production requirements of the 2007 MDRT.

ROSARIO C. SALIENTES
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates
13 Years Top of the Table
Honor Roll and Qualifying Member

DAISY U. SERRANO
Capili Associates
Court of the Table
2 Years Qualifying Member

CORAZON KI ANG
CK Ang Associates
Honor Roll, Life and 19 Years Qualifying Member

MA. ELENA G. ASTURIAS
Del Mundo Associates
Life and 14 Years Qualifying Member

VALERIE U. WONG DE LEON, LUTCF
Tan Associates
Life and 11 Years Qualifying Member

ANTONINA S. SOLOMON
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates
Life and 10 Years Qualifying Member

THERESITAS N. PANOPIO
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates
Court of the Table
6 Years Qualifying Member

WILFRED M. YU
Yu Associates
Court of the Table

RODOLFO M. MALLARI
Pampanga-Del Rosario Agency
Honor Roll, Life and 18 Years Qualifying Member

PATRICIA W. YAM, LUTCF
Yam Associates
Life and 11 Years Qualifying Member

SHIRLEY L. CO
Tan Associates
Life and 10 Years Qualifying Member

NILDA C. UY
Del Mundo Associates
9 Years Qualifying Member

LUCILA H. KIERULF
Del Mundo Associates
9 Years Qualifying Member

LOURDES M. DEL MUNDO, LUTCF
Del Mundo Associates, 8 Years Qualifying Member

NANCY BAUTISTA-ESPIRITU
Espiritu Associates
8 Years Qualifying Member

MARISSA V. TAGUINOD
INV-Mata Agency
6 Years Qualifying Member

REYNOLD A. GAN
EGan Associates
5 Years Qualifying Member

EDEN L. JALOSJOS
Del Mundo Associates
4 Years Qualifying Member

EMMA A. YUHICO
Melendres Associates
4 Years Qualifying Member

TERESITA R. CABARRUBIA
Mortel Associates
9 Years Qualifying Member

LOURDES E. BERNARDO
Bernardo Associates
8 Years Qualifying Member

FLORENTINA M. ARDIDON
Antipolo-Ardidon Associates
7 Years Qualifying Member

MA. ANTONIETTA Q. DEL MUNDO, FLMI
Del Mundo Associates, 5 Years Qualifying Member

VERONICA S. GONZALEZ
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates
5 Years Qualifying Member

ERIC G. NICDAO
Nicdao Associates
4 Years Qualifying Member

MA. LETICIA G. ALLADO
Melendres Associates
4 Years Qualifying Member

ESTELA C. BELEN
Laguna-Falague Agency
4 Years Qualifying Member

LUISITO.S. LAUDICO, LUTCF,CIS
Del Mundo Associates
3 Years Qualifying Member

MA. TERESA D. HERNANDEZ
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates
3 Years Qualifying Member

DOMINGO P. REYES
Del Mundo Associates
2 Years Qualifying Member

REMEDIOS L. NGO, RFC
Espiritu Associates
2 Years Qualifying Member

JOSE DAVID R. TANINGCO
Nicdao Associates
2 Years Qualifying Member

FERNANDO F. PALCON
Ramos Associates
4 Years Qualifying Member

MILAGROS R. SOREACH
Cebu-Tan Agency
3 Years Qualifying Member

EDGAR M. DUMAYAS
La Trinidad-Flores Agency
3 Years Qualifying Member

NANCY S. UY
Del Mundo Associates
3 Years Qualifying Member

JAIME R. PARAISO
Melendres Associates
2 Years Qualifying Member

RENATO L. CUISIA
Del Mundo Associates
2 Years Qualifying Member

ANICIA Q. DE GUZMAN
Pangasinan-De Guzman Agency
2 Years Qualifying Member

JAY ARNOLD C. MENES
Mortel Associates
2 Years Qualifying Member

KARLA M. CAPILI
Capili Associates
2 Years Qualifying Member

AURELIN C. FERNANDO
Melendres Associates
Qualifying Member

AURORA S. ADRIANO
Melendres Associates
Qualifying Member

MARIE W. ALOS
La Trinidad-Flores Agency
Qualifying Member

EVA MARIE M. GALVEZ
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates
Qualifying Member

ROMMEL C. TILLAH
Espintu Associates
2 Years Qualifying Member

ELENA R. KAMID
Ramos Associates
2 Years Qualifying Member

CHARITO H. AZARIAS
Davao Direct
Qualifying Member

ANTONIO P. GAERLAN
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates
Qualifying Member

CANDIDA S. ALONZO
Cuaso Associates
Qualifying Member

LOURDES S. DONATO
Cuaso Associates
Qualifying Member

International Quality Awards

IQA
INTERNATIONAL QUALITY AWARDS

The mark of a career underwriter is exemplified by this worldwide symbol of excellence. Membership to this club is measured by persistency — the number of clients who keep their policies in-force for many years. Persistent business is the seal of a true professional.

SHIRLEY L. CO
Tan Associates
26 Years

GUEI TAY GI
Tan Associates
20 Years

ESTRELLITA U. TAN
Caraga-Mendoza Agency
11 Years

ERNESTO A. LIM
Tan Associates
5 Years

FLORA G. ARELLANO
Batangas-Comia Agency
5 Years

MA. EDITHA S. PENAFLOR
Antonio Associates
3 Years

REYNOLD A. GAN
EGan Associates
2 Years

CHAN SIU ENG
Tan Associates
23 Years

CORAZON KI ANG
CK Ang Associates
19 Years

FERDINAND S. CRUZ
Mendoza Associates
6 Years

THERESITAS N. PANOPIO
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates
5 Years

LUCILA R. OCAMPO
Rizal-Maunahan Agency
5 Years

EDEN L. JALOSJOS
Del Mundo Associates
2 Years

JULIE S. GO
Cuaso Associates
1 Year

EMMA B. ESPIRITU
EGan Associates
1 Year

BELLA M. ALVAREZ
Quezon-Maliwanag Agency
1 Year

ANTONINA S. SOLOMON
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates
1 Year

MARCELO N. ESTRADA
Antonio Associates
1 Year

NESTOR E. ANDRADE
Cavite North Direct
1 Year

MARIO S. BUTAD
Pagadian-Tamala Agency
1 Year

ROSSANNA S. UY
Del Mundo Associates
1 Year

EMERITA C. GULINAO
Capule Associates
1 Year

AMPARO C. IGNACIO
Uson Associates
1 Year

MARISSA V. TAGUINOD
INV-Mata Agency
1 Year

JOSUE I. SENGCO
Zurita Associates
1 Year

Founder's Cabinet

This exclusive honor club is in memory of Philamlife's founder and first President, Earl Carroll, and is dedicated to Agency Leaders who have been five-times Chairman's Cabinet.

Hall of Fame
AGENCY

JOSE ISAGANI F. ANTONIO
Antonio Associates

AGENCY
DIRECT UNIT

LOURDES M. DEL MUNDO, LUTCF
Del Mundo Associates

VERONICA S. GONZALEZ
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

ROSARIO C. SALIENTES
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

Chairman's Cabinet

This exclusive honor club, dedicated to Philamlife's Chairman, Edmund S. Tse, represents the top 15% of Philamlife's outstanding Agency Leaders.

AGENCY
DIRECT UNIT

VERONICA S. GONZALEZ
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

ROSARIO C. SALIENTES
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

LOURDES M. DEL MUNDO, LUTCF
Del Mundo Associates

NILDA C. UY
Del Mundo Associates
With Quality Business Distinction

President's Cabinet

In the tradition of excellence, these Agency Leaders have distinguished themselves with exceptional first year production for Performance Year 2006.

JUAN A. TAN
Tan Associates
With Quality Business Distinction

ERIC G. NICDAO
Nicdao Associates

CRISA G. NICDAO
Nicdao Associates

MELBA L. TAN
Cebu-Tan Agency

PABLO O. TAMALA, JR.
Pagadian-Tamala Agency

CECILIA A. MELENDRES
Melendres Associates
With Quality Business Distinction

ISMAEL L. MELENDRES, JR.
Melendres Associates
With Quality Business Distinction

WILFRED M. YU
Yu Associates
With Quality Business Distinction

DIRECT UNIT

REYNALDO N. MORTEL
Mortel Associates

ANNA CONCEPCION C. BLANCO
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

GREGORIO V. TONGKO
Tongko & Associates

SEGUNDINA O. TAN
Tan Associates
With Quality Business Distinction

CECILIA A. MELENDRES
Melendres Associates
With Quality Business Distinction

ISMAEL L. MELENDRES, JR.
Melendres Associates
With Quality Business Distinction

MA. ZENAIDA N. ANTONIO
Antonio Associates

MA. ELENA G. ASTURIAS
Del Mundo Associates

KARLA M. CAPILI
Capili Associates

ANTONINA A. DEL ROSARIO
Pampanga-Del Rosario Agency

REMEDIOS L. NGO, RFC
Espiritu Associates

WILFRED M. YU
Yu Associates

VICENTE G. TAN
Cebu-Tan Agency

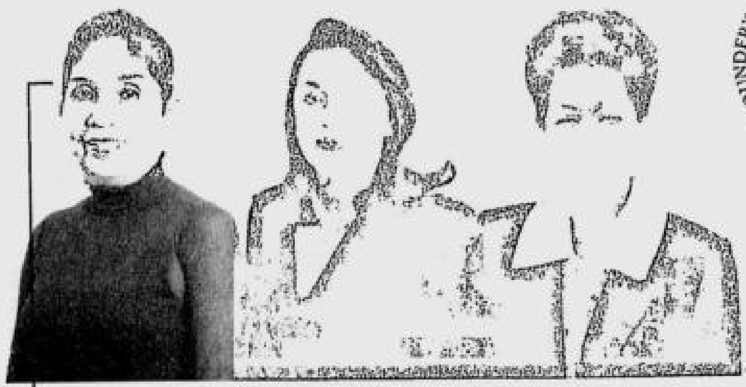
EMMA A. YUHICO
Melendres Associates
With Quality Business Distinction

EDGAR M. DUMAYAS
La Trinidad-Flores Agency

Founder's Circle

A five-time member of the Chairman's Board earns the rank and privilege to be elevated to this exclusive honor club.

This club extols the memory of Philamlife's founder and first President, Earl Carroll. These are the true professionals who represent excellence and commitment.



ROSARIO C. SALIENTES
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

MA. ELENA G. ASTURIAS
Del Mundo Associates

SHIRLEY L. CO
Tan Associates

LOURDES M. DEL MUNDO, LUTCF
Del Mundo Associates

THERESITAS N. PANOPIO
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

NILDA C. UY
Del Mundo Associates

CORAZON KI ANG
CK Ang Associates

ANTONINA S. SOLOMON
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

LUCILA H. KIERULF
Del Mundo Associates

RODOLFO M. MALLARI
Pampanga-Del Rosario Agency

LOURDES E. BERNARDO
Bernardo Associates

NANCY BAUTISTA-ESPIRITU
Espiritu Associates

TERESITA R. CABARRUBIA
Mortel Associates

ANUNCIACION C. BIROG
Del Mundo Associates

CHAN SIU ENG
Tan Associates

YOLANDA A. MORTEL, LUTCF
Mortel Associates

SALUD P. CAPILI
Capili Associates

MA. THERESA L. SOLON, LUTCF
Del Mundo Associates

Chairman's Board

This exclusive honor club, dedicated to Philamlife's Chairman, Edmund S. Tse, belongs to the top 15% of Philamlife's outstanding Agents.

They are the true pacesetters of the agency force who exemplify growth and strength, characteristics of intensely dedicated men and women.

WILFRED M. YU
Yu Associates

MA. TERESA D. HERNANDEZ
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

DAISY U. SERRANO
Capili Associates

DOMINGO P. REYES
Del Mundo Associates

EDEN L. JALOSJOS
Del Mundo Associates

AURORA S. ADRIANO
Melendres Associates

REMEDIOS L. NGO, RFC
Espiritu Associates

PATRICIA W. YAM, LUTCF
Yam Associates

ANTONIO P. GAERLAN
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

President's Circle

In the tradition of excellence, these Agents have distinguished themselves with exceptional first year production for Performance Year 2006.

FERNANDO F. PALCON
Ramos Associates

MA. ANTONIETTA Q. DEL MUNDO, FLMI
Del Mundo Associates

MARIE W. ALOS
La Trinidad-Flores Agency

EDGAR M. DUMAYAS
La Trinidad-Flores Agency

JAY ARNOLD C. MENES
Mortel Associates

ELENA R. KAMID
Ramos Associates

FLORENTINA M. ARDIDON
Antipolo-Ardidon Associates

NANCY S. UY
Del Mundo Associates

ANICIA Q. DE GUZMAN
Pangasinan-De Guzman Agency

ESTELA C. BELEN
Laguna-Falague Agency

LOURDES S. DONATO
Cuaso Associates

LUZVIMINDA F. MORENO
Del Mundo Associates

VALERIE U. WONG DE LEON, LUTCF
Tan Associates

ERIC G. NICDAO
Nicdao Associates

JAIME R. PARAISO
Melendres Associates

EMMA A. YUHICO
Melendres Associates

MA. LETICIA G. ALLADO
Melendres Associates

MILAGROS C. CLET, LUTCF
Batangas-Clet Agency

ROMMEL C. TILLAH
Espiritu Associates

MILAGROS I. GATDULA
Laguna-Falague Agency

FERDINAND S. CRUZ
Mendoza Associates

IRENE B. VILLENA
Cavite-Medrano Agency

CONSOLACION C. BLANCO
Antonio Associates

JEANETTE C. FABICO
Monteverde Associates

BELLA M. ALVAREZ
Quezon-Maliwanag Agency

MARIO S. BUTAD
Pagadian-Tamala Agency

EVA MARIE M. GALVEZ
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

ELENITA V. BELIGANIO
Bulacan-Maturino Agency

MARISSA V. TAGUINOD
INV-Mata Agency

SALVACION S. CONTRERAS
Del Mundo Associates

VIRGINIA T. EUGENIO
Isabela-Carao Agency

MARY GRACE L. SILVA
Del Mundo Associates

MA. ESTRELLA C. MATUNOG
Cebu-Tan Agency

FLORA G. ARELLANO
Batangas-Comia Agency

MILAGROS R. SOREACH
Cebu-Tan Agency

BIENVENIDO M. LUMAAD
Pagadian-Tamala Agency

EMELITA C. LAO
CK Ang Associates

ESMERALDA S. BELTRAN
Antipolo-Ardidon Associates

DEBBIE S. KOO
Monteverde Associates

METHODIO V. MAGNAYE
Capule Associates

ANA MARGARITA T. TONGKO
Tongko & Associates

REYNOLD A. GAN
EGan Associates

MABEL MADELEINE T. PO
Cebu-Tan Agency

JOSE ELMER C. JAMORA
Pagadian-Tamala Agency

MA. VIRGINIA O. BAUTISTA
Melendres Associates

ROSSANNA S. UY
Del Mundo Associates

JULIE S. GO
Cuaso Associates

MARCOS V. TAN
CK Ang Associates

ERLINDA S. CANDO
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

JOSE DAVID R. TANINGCO
Nicdao Associates

KARLA M. CAPILI
Capili Associates

LOURDES V. GLORIA, LUTCF
Salientes-Gonzalez Associates

LUISITO S. LAUDICO, LUTCF, CIS
Del Mundo Associates

PATRICIA A. SARDALLA, RFC, FLMI
Tongko & Associates

EDUARDO A. FORDAN
Fordan Associates

ACCIDENT & HEALTH

Top Contributor – First Year Premium Income

Agency Manager Category
Unit Manager Category
Agent Category

LOURDES M. DEL MUNDO, LUTCF
Del Mundo Associates
Top AM-Stand Alone
Top AM-Life Attached
Top AM-Total Business

SEGUNDINA O. TAN
Tan Associates
Top UM-Stand Alone
Top UM-Total Business

MA. ZENAIDA N. ANTONIO
Antonio Associates
Top UM-Life Attached

RODOLFO M. MALLARI
Pampanga-Del Rosario Agency
Top Agent-Life Attached
Top Agent-Total Business

ARTURO MUYCO, JR.
Iloilo-Gonzaga Agency
Top Agent-Stand Alone

FUND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Top Future Fu d Contributor
Future Fund Awardee
Settlemen Option Plus Aw

JUAN A. TAN
Tan Associates
Agency Category

SHIRLEY L. CO
Tan Associates
Agent Category

JOSELINO J. FERNANDO
Antonio Associates
Agent Category

MARISSA V. TAGUINOD
INV-Mata Agency
Agent Category

GROUP & CREDIT INSURANCE

Group Masters Awardee
Con t Char on
Group A&H Merit Awardee
Group Elite Agency
Credit Elite Agency

JOCELYN P. SECRETARIO
Antonio Associates

AIDA C. MATTI
Fordan Associates

ANNIE G. CAPULLA
Antonio Associates

JOSE ISAGANI F. ANTONIO
Antonio Associates

CARLOS H. HUYATID
Davao-Huyatid Agency

Top Recruiter of the Year

Premier Recruiters Club

ROSARIO CARAIG
Batangas-Cunanan
Agency Category

Activity Management CLUB AWARDEES

This is awarded to agency members who have practiced the Activity Management System to produce at least 100 cases for Performance Year 2006.

ERLINDA S. CANDO
SALIENTES-GONZALEZ ASSOC.

THERESITAS N. PANOPIO
SALIENTES-GONZALEZ ASSOC.

MA LOURDES L. RIVERA
ANTIPOLO-ARDIDON ASSOCIATES

AIDA C. MATTI
FORDAN ASSOCIATES

MA ROSARIO R. LAPLANA
MM EAST DIRECT

DAISY U. SERRANO
CAPILI ASSOCIATES

FERDINAND S. CRUZ
MENDOZA ASSOCIATES

SHIRLEY L. CO
TAN ASSOCIATES

RODOLFO M. MALLARI
PAMPANGA-DEL ROSARIO AGENCY

THELMA S. CARLOS
PAMPANGA-DEL ROSARIO AGENCY

MARIE W. ALOS
LA TRINIDAD-FLORES AGENCY

IRENE B. VILLENA
CAVITE-MEDRANO AGENCY

ESTELA C. BELEN
LAGUNA-FALAGUE AGENCY

MILAGROS I. GATDULA
LAGUNA-FALAGUE AGENCY

BELLA M. ALVAREZ
QUEZON-MALIWANAG AGENCY

MA ESTRELLA C. MATUNOG
CEBU-TAN AGENCY

MELBA F. BADIOLA
EGAN ASSOCIATES

ROSARIO C. SALIENTES
SALIENTES-GONZALEZ ASSOC

GLENN M. LUDOVICE
ANTONIO ASSOCIATES

ERIC G. NICDAO
NICDAO ASSOCIATES

LOURDES M. DEL MUNDO, LUTCF
DEL MUNDO ASSOCIATES

MA ELENA G. ASTURIAS
DEL MUNDO ASSOCIATES

KARLA M. CAPILI
CAPILI ASSOCIATES

ERLINDA T. FRANCO
ESPIRITU ASSOCIATES

DEBBIE S. KOO
MONTEVERDE ASSOCIATES

WILFRED M. YU
YU ASSOCIATES

PATRICIA W. YAM, LUTCF
YAM ASSOCIATES

Tamaraw Qualifiers

Tamaraw Club - AGENT -

ANA MAY V. REGALA
ANTONIO ASSOCIATES

MA EDITHA S. PENAFLOR
ANTONIO ASSOCIATES

VIRGILIO V. HERNANDEZ
ANTONIO ASSOCIATES

MACARIA DR. SILANG
ARDIDON ASSOCIATES

DAN CHRISTOPHER B. MENDOZA
BERNARDO ASSOCIATES

DIANA S. MARINO
BONGALA ASSOCIATES

MARK ANTHONY C. PANA
BONGALA ASSOCIATES

LOLITA N. OBNAMIA
CK ANG ASSOCIATES

ROWENA A. YU
CUASO ASSOCIATES

ALMA E. LLORENTE
DEL MUNDO ASSOCIATES

RENATO L. CUISIA
DEL MUNDO ASSOCIATES

ERLINDA T. FRANCO
ESPIRITU ASSOCIATES

EMMA U. RIVERA
ESPIRITU ASSOCIATES

MARICAR C. LAY
ESPIRITU ASSOCIATES

EMMA B. ESPIRITU
EGAN ASSOCIATES

CARLOS B. MELAD
EGAN ASSOCIATES

MELBA F. BADIOLA
EGAN ASSOCIATES

MELANIE SUSAN T. LAGO
MELENDRES ASSOCIATES

JENNY Y. TAN
MONTEVERDE ASSOCIATES

MA. VICTORIA F. LIWAG
MORTEL ASSOCIATES

MARY ANN D. MAGCULANG
NICDAO ASSOCIATES

VERONICA S. GONZALEZ
SALIENTES-GONZALEZ ASSOCIATES

TERESA C. SOLIS
SALIENTES-GONZALEZ ASSOCIATES

SHERYL E. SERRANO
SALIENTES-GONZALEZ ASSOCIATES

EMMANUEL A. COSICO
STO DOMINGO ASSOCIATES

CONCHITA L. TY
TAN ASSOCIATES

GUEI TAY GI
TAN ASSOCIATES

VENECIA C. LIM
TAN ASSOCIATES

THELMA S. CARLOS
PAMPANGA-DEL ROSARIO AGENCY

BERNARDITA C. LINGAD
BULACAN-MATURINO AGENCY

BARTOLOME R. CRUZ
BULACAN-VENERACION AGENCY

MARICHELE C. GREGORIO
CEBU-TAN AGENCY

ROCHELLE KATE A. PANGILINAN
PAMPANGA-AQUINO AGENCY

FLORANTE A. PANGANIBAN
BATANGAS-CUNANAN AGENCY

ANGEL M. BAYLON
INV-MATA AGENCY

MARILOU P. CATAPUSAN
RIZAL-MAUNAHAN AGENCY

MA FATIMA R. RODRIGUEZ
PAMPANGA-DEL ROSARIO AGENCY

CLAUDIA B. FUENTES
CEBU-TAN AGENCY

VALENTIN V. UY
INV-MATA AGENCY

CONSUELO C. SANGALANG
INV-MATA AGENCY

ADELAIDE H. YAP
DAVAO DIRECT

POTENCIANO C. CARAIG
BATANGAS-CUNANAN AGENCY

NOEMI J. FERNANDEZ
CAVITE-MEDRANO AGENCY

Tamaraw Council - AGENCY -

FLORENTINA M. ARDIDON
ANTIPOLO-ARDIDON ASSOCIATES

ENRICO A. CAPULE, LUTCF
CAPULE ASSOCIATES

REYNALDO N. MORTEL
MORTEL ASSOCIATES

GREGORIO V. TONGKO
TONGKO & ASSOCIATES

PRISCILO E. COMIA
BATANGAS-COMIA AGENCY

ANTONINA A. DEL ROSARIO
PAMPANGA-DEL ROSARIO AGENCY

NANCY BAUTISTA-ESPIRITU
ESPIRITU ASSOCIATES

HENRY M. ESPIRITU
ESPIRITU ASSOCIATES

SERAPIO G. MAUNAHAN
RIZAL-MAUNAHAN AGENCY

Tamaraw Council - DIRECT UNIT -

PERLITA O. CAHAPAY
ANTIPOLO-ARDIDON ASSOCIATES

ANATALIA W. BRIONES
ANTIPOLO-ARDIDON ASSOCIATES

RAMON T. SABLON
ANTIPOLO-ARDIDON ASSOCIATES

LEONILA A. BRITANIA*
BONGALA ASSOCIATES

CORAZON KI ANG*
CK ANG ASSOCIATES

EMELITA C. LAO*
CK ANG ASSOCIATES

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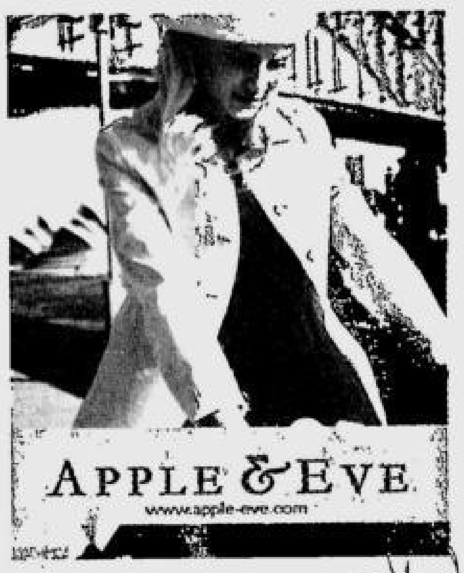
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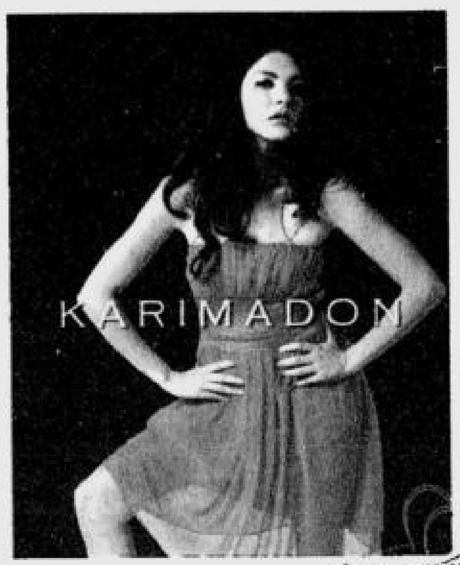

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cinderella
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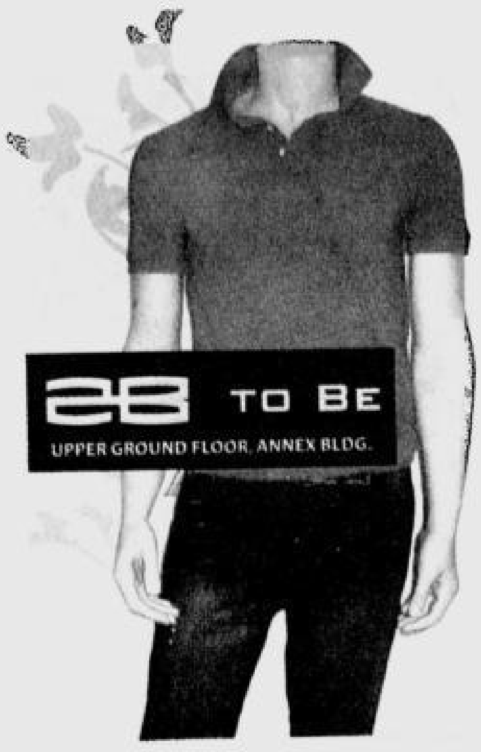
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO.0929, SERIES OF 2007

SM SUPERMALLS



2B TO BE

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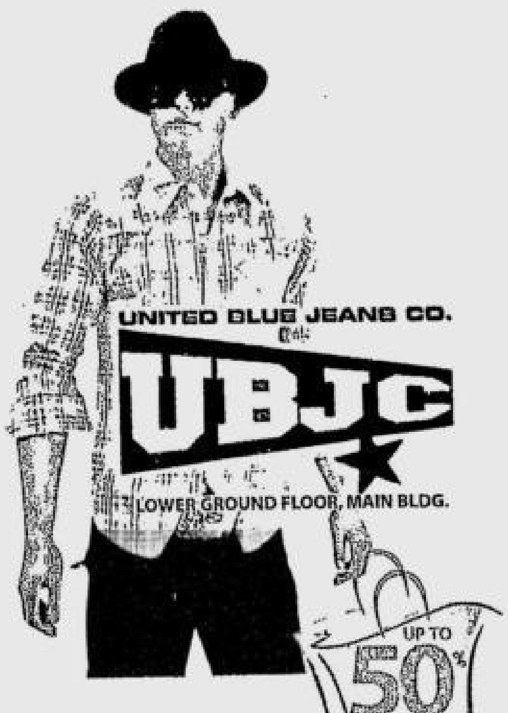

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UBJC

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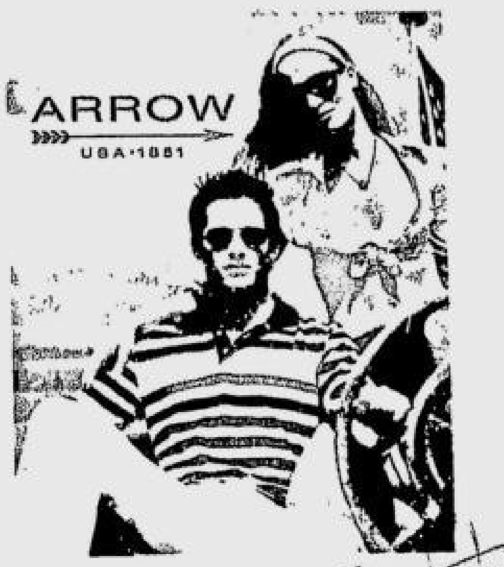

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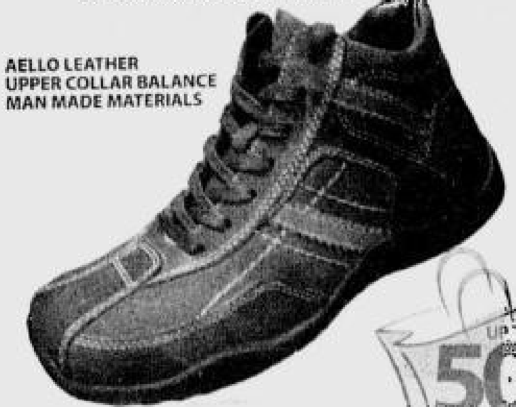

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on March 16, 17 and 18!
Up to 50% OFF
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we wear
to express
not
to impress

BCNY U.S.A.

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scoop

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YOUR
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FEBRUARY TREATS
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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 0025, SERIES OF 2007

HANG TEN
UGF. MAIN BLDG.
SUMMER SALE
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PROMO RUNS UNTIL MARCH 31, 2007
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 0646, SERIES OF 2007

BODY SHOP
UGF. MAIN BLDG
GET THE SPIRIT OF MOON FLOWER
BODY LOTION FOR FREE FOR
A MINIMUM PURCHASE OF P1500
PROMO RUNS UNTIL MARCH 31, 2007
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 0673, SERIES OF 2007

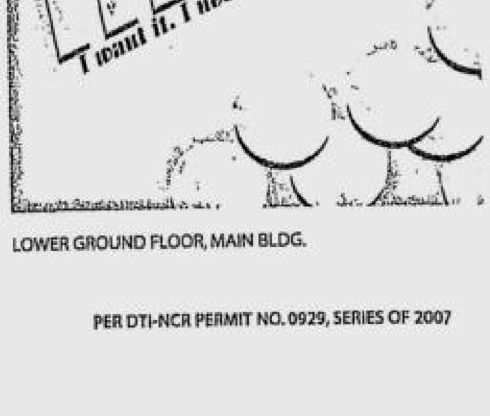
SM SUPERMALLS

LOOKI'N GREAT
FEELI'N GOOD
THIS SUMMER
MONNAKIKI
LIFESTYLE CASUALS

LOWER GROUND FLOOR, MAIN BLDG.

UP TO 30% OFF ON SELECTED ITEMS

genevieve gozum


I want it. I need it. I gotta have it.

LOWER GROUND FLOOR, MAIN BLDG.

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 0929, SERIES OF 2007

The SISIG KING graduates March 2007!
Mas pina-SISIG-lang celebration sa
Congo|Grille
CONGO'S ORIGINAL
FAVORITE SISIG
Choice of Pork, Tuna, Chicken or Sisig Kapampangan.

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◇Ayutthaya◇

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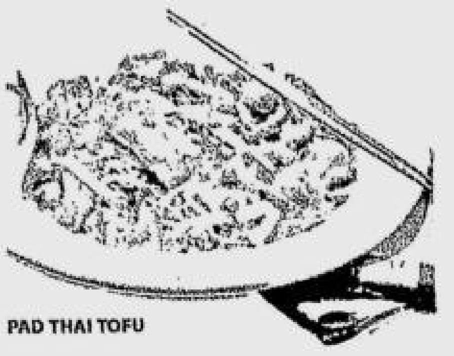


PAD THAI TOFU

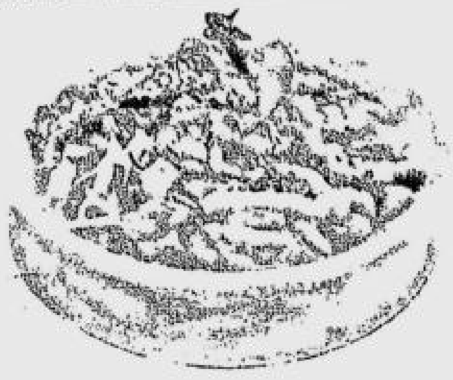
Shakey's
BUFFALO WINGS
Solo (6pcs)
P160
Buddy (12pcs)
P350
Family (18pcs)
P450

LEVEL 2, MAIN BLDG.

SINALAB
PINAKBET
P650
SAVE P150

LEVEL 2, MAIN BLDG.

TED'S
OLD TIMER
LAPAZ BATCHOY
LOWER GROUND FLOOR, ANNEX BLDG.



EXTRA SUPER BATCHOY

Sana araw-araw penitensya!
Shrimp Sandwich

UPPER GROUND FLOOR, MAIN BLDG.

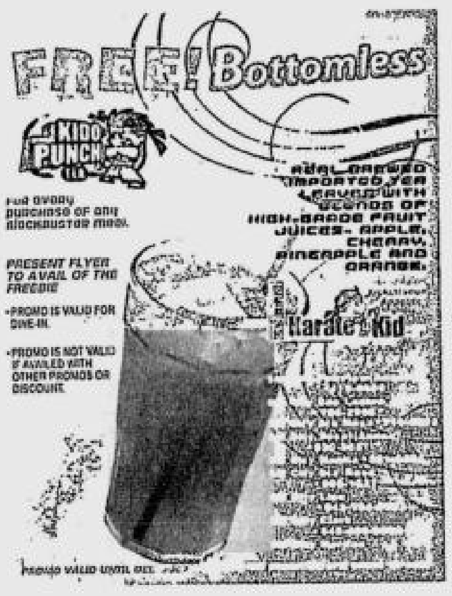
Inasal Chicken Bacolod

UPPER GROUND FLOOR, ANNEX BLDG.

PECHO W/ GARLIC RICE
COMBO MEAL

SINGLE, HOT & DELICIOUSLY AVAILABLE!
BK SINGLES
BUY
P99
STRIP n'
BURGER KING

UPPER GROUND FLOOR, MAIN BLDG.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For every purchase of any Blockbuster meal.
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• PROMO IS VALID FOR DINE-IN.
• PROMO IS NOT VALID IF AVAILED WITH OTHER PROMOS OR DISCOUNT.
Karate Kid

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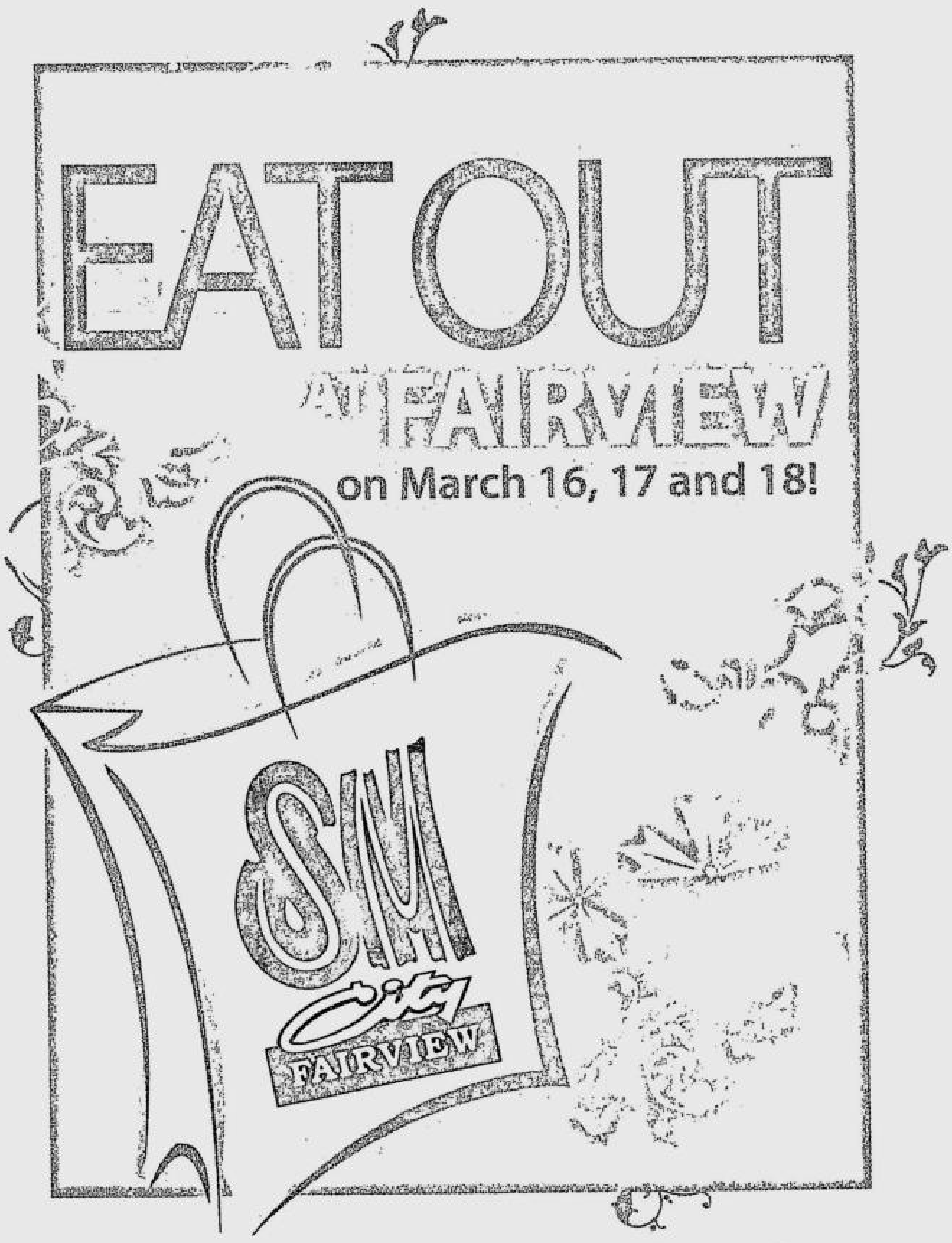
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AT FAIRVIEW
on March 16, 17 and 18!
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FREE cake knife for every purchase of Honey Cake, regular, medium or large

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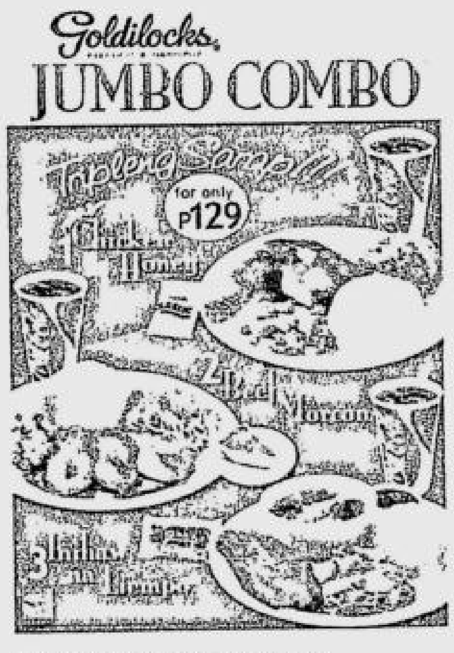
Chow king
MASARAP
DAMING CHOICES
AFFORDABLE

LOWER GROUND FLOOR, ANNEX BLDG.


Goldilocks
JUMBO COMBO
Tipleng Sarap!!!
for only P129

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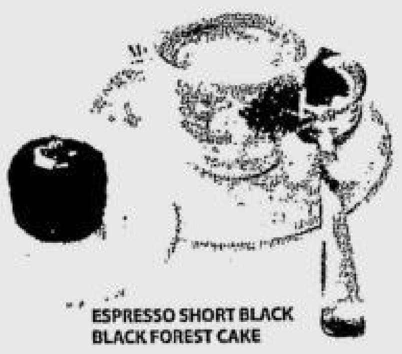
Mocha Blends
ESPRESSO COFFEE • AUSTRALIA
UPPER GROUND FLOOR, MAIN BLDG.



ESPRESSO SHORT BLACK
BLACK FOREST CAKE

Kenny's Healthy Plate

Get rid of that Holiday Guilt! Start the New Year right.

1/4 Classic Roast Chicken
Vegetable Salad
Fruit Salad
Corn Muffin
Kenny's Lite Iced Tea

P149
SAVE P47
Kenny Rogers Roasters

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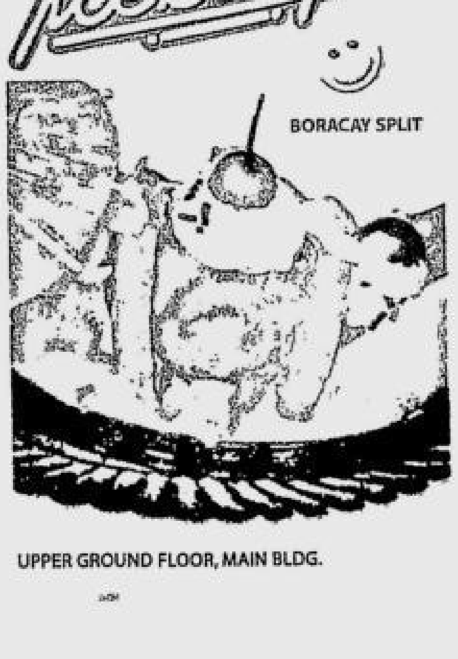

BORACAY SPLIT

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WENDY'S
UGF, MAIN BLDG.
FREE HAMBURGER, FROSTY & SALAD
WHEN YOU PURCHASE P150 W/ YOUR
SM ADVANTAGE CARD
PROMO RUNS UNTIL MARCH 31, 2007
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 5533, SERIES OF 2007

MC DONALDS
UGF, MAIN BLDG.
PROSPERITY IN THE YEAR
OF THE PIG
PROMO RUNS UNTIL MARCH 31, 2007
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 5087, SERIES OF 2007

BURGER KING
UGF, MAIN BLDG
BK SINGLES STRIP N' WIN!
SEE POSTERS FOR DETAILS
PROMO RUNS UNTIL APRIL 19, 2007
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 0442, SERIES OF 2007

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 0929, SERIES OF 2007

SM SUPERMALLS

Office Warehouse

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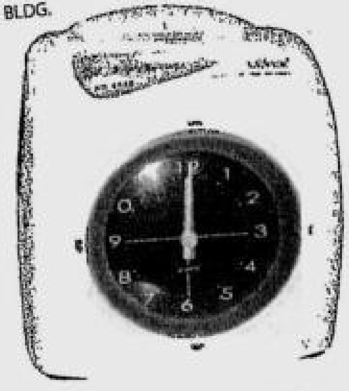

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pchub

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- PALIT GE FORCE VIDEO CARD 7100GS
- INTEL CORE 2 DUO PROCESSOR
- PC HUB MOUSE

S.O.S. Save on Surplus

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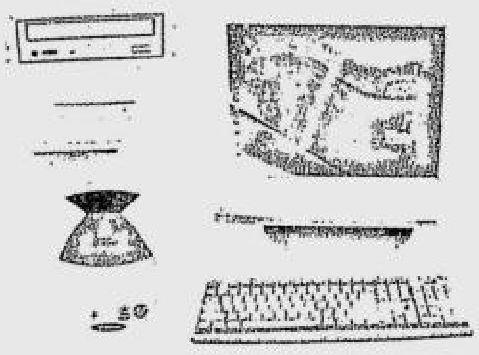

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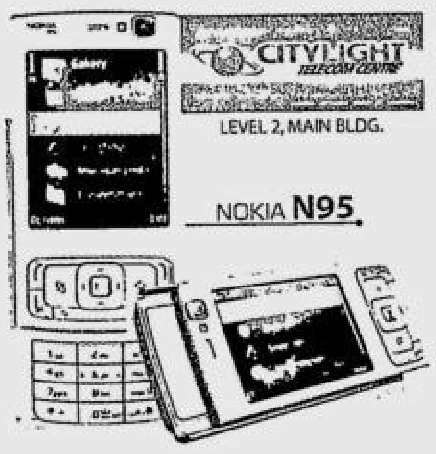

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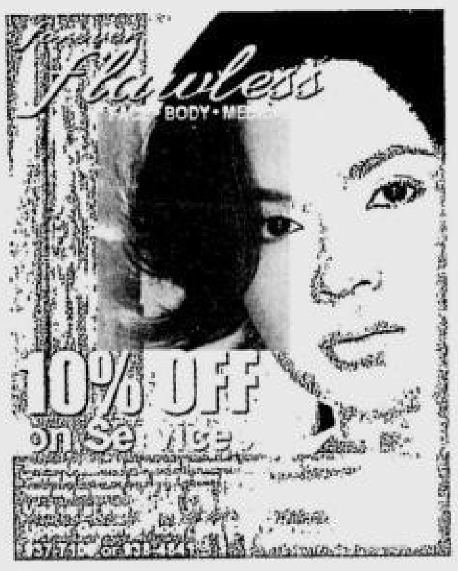

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SM City FAIRVIEW

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0929 Series of 2007

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march 16 • 17 • 18

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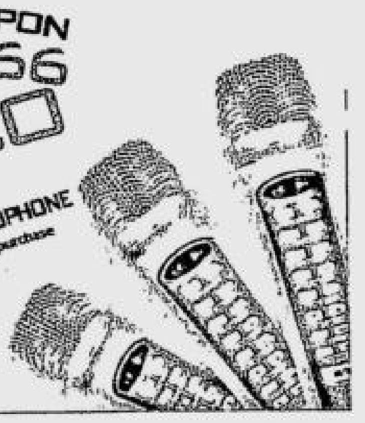
FILL UP RAFFLE COUPON OR TEXT SM TO 2366 & GET A CHANCE TO WIN 1 OF 20 Xtreme VERSION 9 VIDEOKE MICROPHONE with every P500 single receipt purchase



See mechanics poster for details

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 0929, SERIES OF 2007